MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

2 MAY 1983

Shultz Tour - Lebanon

Shultz Talks — Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin met with Secretary of State George Shultz, who had returned to Israel with "new formulations" on the disputed issues in the negotiations, Jerusalem radio reported on 1 May. Begin said after the meeting that the Israeli and Lebanese positions remain the same, according to a subsequent radio report. Earlier, Begin told the 1 May Israeli Cabinet meeting that the talks with Shultz have extended beyond Lebanon to Israeli-U.S. relations and that an improvement in these relations is closely linked to progress in the Lebanon negotiations, IDF Radio noted. Israeli Government sources cited by Jerusalem radio stressed that Israel does not intend to make concessions on the arrangements with Lebanon in return for an improvement in relations with the United States. According to the radio, Israel wants the United States to sign a bilateral memorandum of understanding before the IDF withdraws from Lebanon. The memorandum would reaffirm U.S. refusal to hold contacts with the PLO before the latter recognizes Israel's right to exist. Concerning another aspect of Israeli-U.S. relations, the Tel Aviv daily HA'ARETZ spoke of "fury and anger" in Israel because Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger has "torpedoed" Shultz' earlier announcement that the United States would give Israel the technical data necessary to develop the Lavi aircraft.

Meanwhile, Lebanese Foreign Minister Elie Salim arrived in Damascus to discuss the Lebanon negotiations with Syrian officials, Damascus radio reported on 2 May. Earlier, Salim expressed hope that Shultz' return to Beirut on 3 May will bring "real progress" in the negotiations, according to Beirut radio. In remarks broadcast by Beirut radio after their lengthy talks with Shultz over the weekend, both Salim and Lebanese Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan admitted that the negotiations were difficult. Salim also announced that as soon as Lebanon reaches a draft agreement with Israel it will work with Syria to formulate a withdrawal timetable for the Syrian forces.

According to Jerusalem radio, Shultz will visit Damascus on 4 May if there is "genuine progress" in the talks.

Security — Two shells landed near the U.S. ambassador's residence where Secretary Shultz was staying, Beirut radio reported on 1 May. Druze-Christian artillery exchanges had erupted earlier in the Ash-Shuf mountain area nearby, the radio noted.

In a separate development European diplomatic sources cited by the London Arabic weekly AL-MAJALLAH disclosed that the Soviet Union has "advised" Israel through Romania against attacking Syria.

Saudi Commentary — Noting "some observations that a cautious optimism has appeared on the horizon of the negotiations," a 1 May Riyadh radio commentary said "the belief that a cautious relaxation might lead to an agreement seems to be somewhat justified, judging by the fact that the United States seems to be firmer in dealing with any Israeli presence on Lebanese territory."

PLO

Damascus Meeting — Speaking at a Damascus meeting of its expanded Military Council, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat said Secretary Shultz has undertaken his current Middle East mission in order to supervise the execution of "American imperialist plans against the Palestinian people," According to an AFP report citing the Palestinian news agency, 'Arafat's report to the council reviewed the Middle East situation in light of "the American political offensive and campaign of provocations against the PLO" and alleged Israeli threats to unleash "military aggression" against Syria, the report added. Earlier, at a 30 April press conference in Damascus, PLO deputy military commander Khalil al-Wazir affirmed that no political initiative to resolve the Palestinian issue will succeed unless it recognizes the Palestinian people's national rights and the PLO as the sole legitimate representative, San'a' Voice of Palestine radio reported. Because of the continued U.S. support for Israel, Al-Wazir expressed doubts about the success of Shultz' current tour to the region, the radio added. At the same press conference, Al-Wazir announced that an Austrian mediator was given a videotape showing that the two Israeli soldiers captured by the PFLP-GC last September in Lebanon are in good health, Baghdad Voice of PLO radio reported on 1 May. He added that six other Israeli prisoners detained by Fatah have been visited by International Red Cross officials and journalists

'Arafat Message to King Husayn — Hani al-Hasan, political adviser to Yasir 'Arafat, arrived in Jordan with a message for King Husayn from the PLO leader, according to an INA report on 2 May. Earlier, Radio Monte Carlo reported that Al-Hasan would deliver an "extremely important" personal message from 'Arafat to the Jordanian ruler. When asked about the contents of the message, Al-Hasan said it is "imperative" for the PLO to resume the dialogue with Amman and to bring about a joint Syrian-Jordanian- Palestinian move in this direction, according to the report.

Meetings with Soviet Officials — PFLP Secretary General George Habash, on a visit to the USSR, held talks with a number of Soviet officials concerning the situation in the Middle East in light of "Zionist-imperialist threats" against the area, according to an Algiers Voice of Palestine report on 30 April. Baghdad Voice of Palestine radio reported the same day that the Soviet ambassador in Damascus discussed the latest Middle East developments and the Palestinian issue with PLO Political Department head Faruq Qaddumi and reiterated his country's support for the Palestinian people's struggle.

Syria

Syria is the main target of the current "conspiracy" of "Zionism and imperialism and their tools which have betrayed our Arab nation's interests," President Hafiz al-Asad told Syrian workers in a Labor Day message read out by a Ba'th Party official at a Homs rally and broadcast by Damascus radio. The Ba'th official, Regional Command Assistant Secretary Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah, also told the rally in a speech broadcast by the radio that Secretary of State Shultz' Middle East tour is not an impartial attempt to secure peace but rather an effort to pressure and blackmail the Arabs into "capitulatory and defeatist solutions." Syria, which is "the only bastion of steadfastness and confrontation in the Arab region," is working to attain strategic balance with Israel and consolidate its defenses since Arab lands can be regained only by force, he affirmed.

Jordan

The Reagan plan is the "most daring step that any U.S. administration has ever taken," King Husayn declared in an interview with the Lebanese paper AN-NAHAR broadcast by Amman television. He dismissed alternatives to the U.S. initiative, saying an international conference is "out of our power" and the military alternative does not exist. Nevertheless, Husayn questioned U.S. credibility in securing an Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon and criticized U.S. unwillingness to talk directly to the PLO, asserting that the United States thereby bears some responsibility for the failure of the Jordanian-Palestinian talks. He said that, while it was natural for the Soviet Union to take a negative stand toward the Reagan plan, he did not believe the Soviet Union was responsible for the PLO'S failure to reach agreement with Jordan. U.S.-Soviet agreement on the Middle East is "inevitable" at a certain stage, he declaredd.

Regarding Jordan's support for Palestinians living in Israeli-occupied territory, Husayn disclosed that one of the most important measures the Jordanians are currently discussing is "will we let Israel have the chance to force people to emigrate or not?" In a related development Jordanian "political circles" cited by AFP announced that Jordan is planning to introduce stricter controls on movement from the West Bank into Jordan in order to prevent a mass exodus of West Bank residents.

Egypt

Mubarak Speech — There is "no way" to continue the Middle East peace discussions without Jordanian-Palestinian participation, President Husni Mubarak declared in a May Day speech broadcast by Cairo radio. Reaffirming Egypt's call for the PLO and Jordan to reach agreement on participation in the peace process, Mubarak revealed that he recently received a letter from King Husayn affirming Jordan's commitment to maintaining a dialogue with the PLO. Mubarak also noted that in his 26 April meeting with George Shultz he told the secretary of state that Egypt attaches "top priority" to the need for a speedy agreement on Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon.

After reviewing Egypt's economic situation, Mubarak sharply criticized journalists who have been "lying and propagandizing for chaos" and "throwing dirt at all the values and sanctities." Without mentioning anyone by name, he expressed displeasure at those who have been "well paid" for publishing hostile articles in the Arab press, including allegations that the October war was an "imaginary battle." Mubarak also warned against exploiting Egypt's economic difficulties and concluded his speech by announcing a Labor Day wage bonus for public sector employees.

Libyan Agents — The authorities have arrested a number of Libyan agents involved in a plan to establish underground "revolutionary committees" in Egypt, MENA reported citing the paper AKHBAR AL-YAWM.

Libya

The Libyan Armed Forces intercepted more than 100 U.S. aircraft near the Gulf of Sidra while "courageously confronting" the repeated and "insolent U.S. colonialist" attempts, Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi said at a 30 April dinner hosted by Benin's president, according to JANA. Currently on a tour of African countries, the Libyan leader said "we should permanently encourage African peoples to revolution and incite the revolutionary forces in African armies to rejoin the African popular masses," according to a 29 April AFP report. In other JANA reports Al-Qadhdhafi was reported to have warned that any outside interference in Chad gives Libya the right to interfere, too, but he affirmed that Libya does not contemplate military intervention in Chad.

Iran

Communist Leader's Confession — Arrested Tudeh Party Secretary General Nureddin Kianuri confessed publicly to having been guilty of espionage, deceit, and treachery, admitting responsibility for serious aberrations "which deserve the most severe punitive actions that the Islamic Republic may decide to mete out." Speaking in an interview broadcast by Tehran television on 30 April, Kianuri said his party was guilty of six important errors: remaining dependent on the Soviet Union and engaging in espionage on its behalf; illegally retaining secret arms caches; maintaining a secret political organization in contravention of official rulings that such groups should be dissolved; establishing a secret group of officers which became an agency for collecting information for dispatch to the USSR; infiltrating the administration; and arranging illegal departures from the country. Kianuri expressed "chagrin and shame" over his misdeeds against Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni and urged young Tudeh members to avoid participating in any leftist infiltration of Iran as this means "affiliation with foreigners and aliens."

In a related development Tehran radio reported earlier that, as a result of the confessions by Kianuri and other Tudeh leaders, revolution guards have arrested more party members and seized weapons stores. According to the clandestine Radio Iran, the Soviet Union has secretly urged high Iranian officials to prevent a public trial of the communist leaders.

Commenting on Kianuri's confession, Tehran radio said the revelation of the "filthy character" of the Tudeh leaders should serve as a lesson to those who give priority to the interests of foreigners. The "misled and ignorant" Tudeh members should

dissociate themselves from the party and return to the arms of the Muslim Iranian people "before it is too late," the radio advised.

New Navy Commander — A presidential decree broadcast by Tehran radio on 30 April announced the appointment of Captain Esfandiyar Hoseyni as commander of the Iranian Navy. The appointment was suggested by the Supreme Defense Council and approved by Ayatollah Khomeyni. Noting that the official announcement did not mention the reasons for the dismissal of Hoseyni's predecessor, Captain Azfali, the clandestine Radio Iran said the Supreme Defense Council wants to dismiss officers who oppose the continuation of the war.

POW's Freed — Iran released 32 invalid Iraqi POW's on 30 April, sending them home via Turkey, Tehran radio reported. Citing an Iranian official, IRNA announced on 1 May that Iraq had responded to the Iranian move by releasing 30 elderly Iranian villagers "kidnapped" by the Iraqis at the beginning of the war. "This was obviously a gesture to counter the genuine Islamic and humanitarian move" made earlier by Iran, the official contended.

Afghanistan

A Soviet transport aircraft carrying ammunition and troops was reportedly brought down on 25 April by a missile fired by Afghan resistance forces in Nangarhar Province, AFP and SPA reported over the weekend citing the AFGHAN ISLAMIC PRESS AGENCY. Earlier, Tehran television reported that Muslim revolutionaries captured a government base in Paktia Province after a month-long siege. BBC World Service reported on 1 May the establishment of a new guerrilla headquarters and training center in the same province designed to turn the anticommunist resistance units into a more effective fighting force.

FBIS

DAILY REPORT

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Monte Carlo on Palestinian Military Meeting

'Arafat Arrives in Damascus

JN021111 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1100 GMT 1 May 83

[Text] Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Damascus at dawn today to preside over a series of meetings of the Palestinian command. Khalil al-Wazir,deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, arrived in Damascus from Saudi Arabia a few hours before 'Arafat's arrival.

Sources close to 'Arafat say that there is a connection between the tension that prevails over Lebanon in the wake of the recent Israeli threats and troop concentrations in Al-Biqa' and 'Arafat's presence in Damascus.

'Arafat Chairs 1 May Meeting

JN011739 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1715 GMT 1 May 83

[Text] In Damascus PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, who arrived in the Syrian capital from Tunis last night, today presided over an expanded meeting of the Palestinian revolution forces' expanded Military Council, during which the conferees reviewed the present military situation in Lebanon's Al-Biqa' and northern areas and discussed means to confront a likely Israeli aggression against the Palestinian positions in Al-Biqa', as WAFA said. This council, which comprises several cadres and officers from various Palestinian resistance factions, will hold another meeting in Damascus tomorrow.

'Arafat on Shultz Mission

NC012301 Paris AFP in English 2255 GMT 1 May 83

[Text] Damascus, May 1 (AFP) — Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) leader Yasir 'Arafat today accused U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz of pursuing his current Middle East mission in order to see up close "the execution of American imperialist plans against the Palestinian people".

(Mr Shultz has been shuttling between Beirut and Israel trying to hammer out a Lebanese-Israeli agreement which would lead to the withdrawal of all foreign troops from Lebanon.)

The Palestinian news agency WAFA said Mr 'Arafat, who arrived here unexpectedly earlier today from Tunis, made the statement during a meeting of the "expanded Military Council" which he was chairing. Also there, WAFA said, was Khalil al-Wazir, known as Abu Jihad, who is deputy commander-in-chief of the Palestinian armed forces and who arrived here today from Saudi Arabia, where he had talks with King Fahd on the Lebanese situation.

Mr 'Arafat delivered a report to the council on the present Middle East situation in light of "the American political offensive and campaign of provocations against the PLO, as well as Zionist threats to unleash military aggression against Syria, the PLO and the Lebanese Nationalist Movement," the agency said.

Earlier, Palestinian sources said Mr 'Arafat's visit here was linked to increased Israeli-caused tension in Lebanon's Al-Biqa' valley, where Syrian troops are deployed, and to a "possible Israeli aggression" against Palestinian forces in northern and central Lebanon.

Further Report

JN020646 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 2 May 83

[Text] The United States has for some time been focusing on the increasing Soviet presence in Syria. Yesterday, the United States expressed its greatest fear when Eagleburger, under secretary of state for political affairs, said in a political program aired over the CBS network, that the mounting Soviet presence in Syria represents a real danger and was bound to invite an East-West confrontation in the Middle East region.

Eagleburger affirmed that the increasing Soviet military aid to Syria aims to demonstrate that the USSR is still playing a basic role in the region. He added that the United States is still the sole world power capable of reconciling the conflicting parties and of bringing them to the negotiating table.

Yasir 'Arafat, however, views matters from a different perspective. The PLO executive chairman, who presided over an expanded Military Council meeting in Damascus yesterday, has sharply criticized the U.S. role in the Middle East. He said the aim of Secretary of State Shultz' tour of the region aims at closely following up the implementation of the U.S. plans against the Palestinian people. 'Arafat warned of the dangers inherent in the U.S. designs at this particular phase. 'Arafat instructed Palestinian commanders to heighten their vigilance and alertness vis-a-vis all contingencies, which, among other things, as WAFA asserts, include an Israeli military strike to the Palestinian and Syrian forces in Lebanon's Al-Biqa'.

In another development, WAFA reiterated yesterday that Israel continues to reinforce its military positions in the Al-Biqa' valley and that it has brought in many tanks, armored vehicles, and heavy artillery pieces. Israel, according to WAFA, has planted mines in the hills overlooking Kamid al-Lawz and constructed fortifications and observation posts in Al-Mansurah facing the Syrian positions.

KUNA: Al-Wazir Chairs 29 April Military Meeting

LD291851 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1558 GMT 29 Apr 83

[Text] Damascus, 29 Apr (KUNA) — Today Khalil al-Wazir — Abu Jihad — deputy commander in chief of the Palestine Revolution forces, presided over a meeting of the Palestine Military Council, which was attended by commanders of the revolution forces' military units.

A council spokesman stated that the meeting discussed a number of military reports on the current military situation in the Al-Biqa' valley in light of the growing Israeli military concentrations there, the points of contact with the Israeli forces, and future eventualities.

Abu Jihad asked the military commanders to be on maximum alert to face up to any new Israeli military aggression against Palestine revolution and Syrian forces.

Abu Jihad acquainted the meeting with the resolutions that the Palestinian leadership adopted during its recent meeting in Tunisia on the questions of internally building the Palestine armed forces, and unifying all armed forces under the name of the Palestine national liberation army and the measures needed to deal with the situation in Lebanon.

WAFA has reported that today Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department received a message from the Malaysian Government throught the Malaysian ambassador in Damascus, which deals with the latest developments in the region and relations between the PLO and Malaysia.

Qadummi also met with the Soviet ambassador in Damascus. WAFA reported that they discussed relations between the USSR and the PLO and the latest developments in the Middle East. WAFA added that the Soviet ambassador reiterated his country's support for the struggle of the Palestine people under the leadership of the PLO, their sole legitimate representative.

Monte Carlo: Al-Wazir on Dialogue With Syria
JN291415 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1400 GMT 29 Apr 83

[Text] Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir] deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, has stressed that the organization which claimed responsibility for the assassination of Dr 'Isam as-Sartawi in Portugal is a tool in the hands of Arab intelligence circles. He declined to disclose the identity of these circles.

On another level, Abu Jihad expressed the Palestinians' readiness to begin a new dialogue with Syria. However, he added that nothing new has happened to allow for embarking on this step.

Al-Wazir on Continuation of PLO-Jordanian Talks
GF291638 San'a' Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 29 Apr 83

[Text] Brother Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir — FBIS], deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, has emphasized the PLO'S anxiousness for its relations of cooperation with Jordan to continue in all fields.

In an interview published in Kuwait today Brother Abu Jihad said the PLO-Jordanian differences on specific stands must not lead to a halt in the dialogue between them. He said that on its part the Palestinian leadership is anxious to deal with such matters calmly and objectively.

PFLP's Habash Holds Talks With USSR Officials
LD010244 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 30 Apr 83

[Text] The secretary general of the PFLP, Comrade George Habash held talks with a number of Soviet officials. The talks dealt with the conditions in the Middle East and the development of events in the Arab area in the light of the Zionist-imperialist threats against the area and its peoples.

We point out that Comrade Habash has been visiting the Soviet Union since Wednesday at the invitation of Soviet leaders.

PLO Issues 'Urgent' Invitations for 6 May Meeting
GF291626 San'a' Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 29 Apr 83

[Text] The PLO has extended an urgent invitation to all Palestinian leaders, PLO Executive Committee members, secretaries of the organizations of Palestinian factions, and representatives of popular and trade union organizations to attend the extraordinary meeting of Palestinian leaders scheduled to be held in Kuwait on 6 May.

This was announced in Damascus today by an official Palestinian source. In a statement to QNA the source said that during the expanded meeting the members of the 60-man Palestine Central Council, who represent Palestinian institutions, organizations, and groupings, will be renamed. The Palestine Central Council is a link between the Palestine National Council and the PLO Executive Committee.

The source said the latest Palestinian developments, including preparations by the Zionist enemy forces in Lebanon for launching a wide-scale attack against the Palestinian and Syrian forces in Lebanon, and the possibility of adopting a unified Palestinian stand on current events in Lebanon — particularly the question of resolving the withdrawals issue — will be discussed at the meeting.

WAKH: Mini-Summit May Replace Fes Summit
GF011409 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1310 GMT 1 May 83

[Text] Rabat, 1 May (WAKH) — Informed Arab diplomatic sources have told the WAKH correspondent here that if obstacles in the way of the convocation of the Arab summit in early May are not removed, it will probably be replaced by a summit of the country members of the seven-member committee which sprang from the 12th Fes summit.

The sources added that Khalid al-Hasan, adviser to the Palestinian leader [Yasir 'Arafat], left Morocco yesterday to inform 'Arafat of this. They said chances of the seven-member commit

tee countries increased following the return of Boucetta, Moroccan foreign affairs minister, from Washington, and Bensouda, adviser to the Moroccan monarch, from Amman, because there was nothing new in the Moroccan or the Jordanian stands.

Palestinians Mobilize Forces in Al-Biqa'

GF301528 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 29 Apr 83 p 1

[Text] A high-ranking Palestinian military official has said the Palestinian leadership has ordered an all-out mobilization of the forces in Al-Biqa' and in all the external bases to confront any Israeli attack that might take place.

The official — who asked to remain anonymous — affirmed that vanguards of Palestinian fighters have arrived in Al-Biqa' from the two Yemens, Algeria, and Tunisia to participate in the possible battle. "Palestinian forces from other Arab countries will be dispatched to Al-Biqa'," he said.

The Palestinian official said once the battle starts, Palestinian forces will carry out suicide missions which will be the "war's surprise."

In reply to a question on the participation of Palestinian paratroopers and pilots in the battle, he said: "We will not reveal our plans and we will use all means available to us." "After our exit from Beirut, we received advanced weapons which we will use in the battle," he added.

Commentary on Shultz' Mideast Efforts

Al-Wazir Comments

GF011738 San'a' Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 1 May 83

[Text] Brother Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir — FBIS] deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, has affirmed that any political move or initiative to resolve the Palestinian issue will not live unless it recognizes the Palestinian people's national rights and the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of these people.

In a press conference held in Damascus yesterday, Brother Abu Jihad expressed his doubts about the success of the U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz' current tour to the region due to the continuation of Washington's support to the Zionist entity and its ignorance of the situation in the Middle East. He said that the outbreak of a new war in the region depends on the Shultz' meetings with the enemy's officials.

An-Nashashibi Criticism

GF291203 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1050 GMT 29 Apr 83

[Text] Kuwait, 29 Apr (WAKH) — Dr Muhammad Zuhdi an-Nashashibi, secretary general of the PLO Executive Committee, has criticized the statements recently made by George Shultz, U.S. secretary of state, on the PLO's right to represent the Palestinian people. He said these statements are considered a blatant challenge to the UN resolutions and international law on the (?natural) rights of the world's peoples, particularly the Palestinian people.

In a statement published in today's issue of AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM, Dr an-Nashashibi said he will brief Yasir 'Arafat and other Palestinian leaders on the outcome of his recent contacts with a number of Arab and European countries and on the latest developments of the situation in the occupied Arab territories.

An-Nashashibi said the PLO Executive Committee is very keen to remain committed to the recent resolutions passed by the PNC which was held in Algiers, particularly those pertaining to the proposed peaceful solutions in the region to resolve the Palestinian issue.

Dr an-Nashashibi reiterated the PLO's anxiousness to maintain contacts with Jordan and to leave the dialogue open, in the framework of the Fes summit and the PNC resolutions.

Algiers VOP Commentary

LD301421 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1700 GMT 20 Apr 83

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Those who, when they received the news of the resignation of Alexander Haig, the hero of the Lebanese invasion, from the post of secretary of state and of the appointment of his successor, George Shultz, probably received it with relief. They may recall that bringing in Shultz was an attempt on the part of the White House to repair the large split which occurred as a result of the (?U.S.)collusion with Israel in the aggression against Lebanon, the Palestinian resistance, and the Arab nation.

At the time, it was said that choosing Shultz as a successor to Haig was neither accidental nor was it done haphazardly. This meant that choosing Shultz was designed to open a new page in Arab-American relations. Some Arabs have been overoptimistic; they thought the new U.S. secretary of state could be described as pro-Arab because he sympathizes with their issues. Arab optimists based their calculations on his innocent and — unlike his predecessor — on the basis that Shultz is a senior executive of the Bechtel organization, which has large interests and business ties with the Arab world. [passage indistinct]

The United States based its calculations on two things: It replaced a boastful and arrogant face with an innocent face, and it replaced a military mentality with an economic mentality, because of its extensive economic ties with the Arabs once it had secured the Lebanese operation military results.

The United States, however, knows that a pot needs three legs to stand, as the Arab saying goes. The United States has provided the third, most important leg, manifested by the defeatist official Arab stand — the one that is so keen to throw itself in the bosom of the United States. Providence willed it that 10 months should elapse between the time Shultz arrived in the White House following U.S. moves accompanying the invasion of Lebanon.

We Arabs look carefully at the new, yet old, American face, and we see that the new face shows a little gratitude toward Arab hospitality and generosity, or even loyalty, to the U.S. interests, primarily those of the Bechtel organization, because it is supposed that those interests would be affected by any insult to Arab issues as a result of actions [words indistinct] which might be hostile to these issues. This is only logical.

Shultz is not content to be a carbon copy of any previous U.S. secretary of state, from Dulles to Rogers, the notorious Henry Kissinger, or the ugly General Haig, but he has turned into a domineering colonialist, issuing threats against the Arab nation. He claims the right to tell the Arabs states to withdraw their recognition of the PLO and declare that the PLO is not the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. The American secretary went even further, saying insolent, humilating words to his friends about the heads of Arab regimes. He said that the Rabat resolutions were wrong, and the mistake made by the Rabat summit, in the opinion of the American Administration, was the summit's recognition of the legitimacy and the right of the PLO to represent the Palestinian people — a right confirmed by the blood and sweat of the sons of this nation. And now the United States wants these people to kneel in submission before it and before Israel, its spoiled foster child.

The man who is supposed to be pro-Arab wants to return the Arab homeland back to the times of the high commissioner, who ruled and decided [words indistinct] in a manner familiar to us during the times of British and French colonialism. He wants a trusteeship. This is the meaning of the words of the deceased Anwar as-Sadat when he said that the United States holds 99 percent of the cards for solving the Middle East crisis.

Shultz and his new (?foolhardy) policy prove that U.S.-Zionist collusion still exists, and continues for the (?purpose of) promoting U.S.-Zionist colonialism, under the slogan of a false peace throughout the Arab homeland, in a manner that will remove even the formal aspects of independence or the making of an Arab decision in any Arab capital. Shultz might be entitled to do all this, or even more.

Is not the American secretary among those whom we described as pro-Arab. Was it not us who brought the Rapid Deployment Force to be deployed in our deserts, our territorial waters, and near our shores? Was it not us who made the United States think that it holds 99 percent of the cards for solving the Middle East crisis? Was it not us who made the U.S. secretary of state say those words publicly, in a manner that is contrary to the (?reality of the Arab solution)? And a final question: We have asked it before and we ask it now. This harsh American trusteeship over peoples and governments: Does it not deserve some condemnation, even for the sake of self-respect? It is a question which is put to those who are searching for American (?friendship) and who are [passage indistinct].

PLO Radio: Deceptive Mission

JN011515 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1600 GMT 30 Apr 83

[Commentary by PLO radio political editor]

[Text] Brothers, various information media yesterday and this morning circulated Shultz' statements on his shuttle tour of the region. While the Arab mass media circulated Shultz' statement on his slight progress, and stressed that there has been progress, even if it is slow in Shultz' mission, the Zionist enemy's media was interested in a statement made by one of Shultz' assistants. The enemy radio today highlighted this statement, which says: He who wagers that Shultz can achieve a final solution to the situation in the region during his shuttles is mistaken. Both are U.S. statements: Shultz' statement on slight progress and the statement by the aide, assistant, or companion, who makes statements when instructed to do so by Shultz. It is the same method which was used by the ill-reputed Kissinger.

Since Shultz' arrival in the region, we have said that he will do nothing, either in the interest of Lebanon or in that of the Arab nation, because Shultz is a student of the same school from which Camp David graduated and which complied with the most important of Israel's demands: namely, the neutralization of Egypt, the largest Arab force in the region, which ended its state of war with Israel and left the arena of the Arab-Israeli conflict, a matter which we as Palestinians are still suffering from even more than the rest of the Arabs.

These two U.S. statements show the contradictions and confusion of the Shultz mission. They also point out the extent of the interest of the two parties to the conflict in the region. Arab media praised the statement on the slight progress achieved, thus showing the eagerness of this media and those who run it for a U.S. peace which, in the opinion of any Arab citizen, means capitulation.

On the other hand, the Israeli media highlighted the statement of the lost wager as being the inevitable result of the Shultz shuttle mission in the region. Those who are interested in the first statement show the extent of their desire to end the state of war with Israel, and those who are interested in the second statement show their importance as a deterrent force in the region which terrorizes everyone so that they will not depend on the aspired-to U.S. peace and rest. No, because Israel will not let anyone rest in the region, because it lives on war and cannot live in a peaceful atmosphere. Without war, Israel cannot continue as a state in this region. These two statements make us recall the past few days when Shultz said that he had come to the region and would not leave it before achieving the withdrawal from Lebanon. A series of statements, and Shultz is still in the region. We hear only clamor and see no action.

Perhaps we the Arabs can learn a lesson from these two statements, although we have not learned one from the practices of the United States and its ally Israel throughout past years. The Palestinian people know their enemies' practices and deception. Therefore, they cannot be deceived by the Kissinger-like Shultz mission, because they know its results in advance.

Condition of Israeli POW's Affirmed, Visit Planned

Austrian Envoy Sees Movie

JN011638 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 1 May 83

[Text] Brother Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, has said that an Austrian mediator was given a movie on two Zionist prisoners showing that they are in good health. Addressing the press in Damascus, Abu Jihad said that the movie is on two Israelis who were detained last September in Lebanon. These two prisoners are detained by the PFLP-GC, he added. Six other Israeli prisoners detained by Fatah have been visited by International Red Cross officials and journalists.

Red Cross To Visit

JN011419 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1400 GMT 1 May 83

[Text] 'Abd al-Muhsin Abu Mayzar, official spokesman of the PLO Executive Committee, today told the Palestinian news agency that the Red Cross representative in Syria will visit the two Israeli POW's being held by the PFLP-GC for the first time the day after tomorrow, Tuesday.

Meanwhile, Abu Mayzar said that the brothers in the PFLP-GC have informed the PLO Executive Committee that they will place the two Israeli POW's at its disposal. They also expressed their readiness to cooperate with the subcommittee formed by the PLO Executive Committee to secure the release of the Palestinian and Lebanese prisoners in the Israeli Ansar camp in southern Lebanon and in the Israeli prisons in the occupied territories.

Klibi Sees Plusses, Minuses of U.S. Peace Plan

LD291142 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0945 GMT 29 Apr 83

[Text] Jiddah, 29 Apr (SPA) — Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi has warned that Israel is preparing for new aggression to divert attention from its occupation of Lebanon, just as it tried to divert attention from its practices in the West Bank by invading Lebanon.

In a statement to today's AL-MADINAH he said that the reinforcement of Israeli military presence in Lebanon and the massing of its troops at the Syrian borders have their known aims. He stressed that among the things adding to the already complicated Middle East situation are the building of settlements in the West Bank and occupied Jerusalem, and also Israel's rejection of all peaceful settlement plans from any side.

Referring to the Arab peace plan, he said that it represented radical change in the Arab stand to facilitate peace in the region. He stressed that the Arab peace plan is inspired by international legality, since the plan contains no point which conflicts with this legality. Thus the Arab countries have done their utmost for a settlement. He called on Israel to accept peace on the same basis, namely, the will of the international community, adding that Israel can no longer use the excuse that any danger threatens its entity and security. He called on the great powers to do their duty as influential states, especially the permanent members of the UN Security Council.

Referring to the U.S. peace plan, he said that it contained positive points and that, compared with the previous U.S. stance, it is a move forward. But it has ignored basic matters, such as the self-determination right of the Palestinians and recognition of the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

USSR 'Advises' Israel Against Attacking Syria

PM301955 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 30 Apr-6 May 83 p 8

[From "AL-MAJALLAH Correspondents' Dispatches"]

[Text] Reliable European diplomatic sources have revealed that the Soviet Union has "advised" Israel, through a third party, against attacking Syria. The sources added that the third party which passed this advice to Israel was Romania.

Yasir 'Arafat's 'Exclusive Interview' With XINHUA

For the Beijing XINHUA English report on an "exclusive interview" given by PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat on 29 April in Tunis, Algeria, to XINHUA, see the Middle East & Africa section of the 2 May China DAILY REPORT.

GULF AFFAIRS

GCC Official on 'Encouraging Signs' to War's End

LD301336 Riyadh SPA in English 1232 GMT 30 Apr 83

[Text] Beirut, April 30 (SPA) — There are encouraging signs to end the 31-month-old Iran-Iraq war, Mr Ibrahim as-Subhi, the assistant secretary general of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) was quoted as saying in a statement published here today.

He told the daily AN-NAHAR that the Council's six member states had introduced an initiative to solve the conflict after consultations with the permanent member states of the U.N. Security Council.

"The Iraq-Iran hostilities not only threaten the Gulf economies but also endanger our existence," he added.

Mr as-Subhi said contacts had taken place with the two warring Muslim states, friendly countries, the Islamic Conference Organisation (ICO) the non-aligned nations, the U.N. and recently with the Security Council's member states to resolve the conflict.

He highlighted the strong relations among the GCC states and said political tendencies of some members did not indicate existence of different view points on issues of mutual interest.

"Security and stability are essential to the region and the council's states have succeeded in keeping the Gulf away from super-powers conflict and securing deterrent strength to safeguard the Gulf states' interests and sovereignty," he added.

BAHRAIN

Prime Minister Returns From Kuwait 1 May

GF011831 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1815 GMT 1 May 83

[Text] Manama, 1 May (WAKH) — His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah, prime minister, returned to Bahrain from Kuwait this evening after an official 2-day visit.

He was received on his arrival by His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, the amir of Bahrain; His Highness Shaykh Hamad ibn 'Isa Al Khalifah, heir apparent and commander in chief of the Bahrain Defense Force; and a number of senior military and civilian officials.

KUWAIT

Bahraini Prime Minister Issues Statement 1 May

LD012101 Kuwait KUNA in English 1648 GMT 1 May 83

[Text] Kuwait 1 May (KUNA) — The prime minister of Bahrain, Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman al-Khalifah praised Sunday Kuwait's positive role and support to the implementation of Bahraini development projects and expressed full satisfaction withthe relations of all-sided cooperation between the two fraternal states.

Shortly before winding up his two-day official visit this evening, Shaykh Khalifah underlined the identity of views during his talks here which covered the close relations between Bahrain and Kuwait, Gulf issues and Arab and international questions.

"Regarding common Gulf action," The Bahraini premier stated "common determination was expressed by both parties on furthering the positive role played by countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council in order to realize coordination and integration."

Shaykh Khalifah asserted, in a press release at the end of his Kuwait visit, that the GCC was the natural way and means to ward off the dangers now threatening the Gulf region, to keep the region at bay from superpower struggle and to maintain its security and stability.

Within this context, the Bahraini premier added, agreement was reached on continuing strenuous efforts aimed at stopping the prolonged shedding of blood between Iraq and Iran and halting this devastating war which drain the two countries of human and material resources. He indicated that the conflict threatens the Gulf region's security and stability and has rendered the region vulnerable, more than any time before, to foreign power intervention in addition to its present and future negative reflection on the peoples of the area.

Shaykh Khalifah appealed to the two Gulf neighbours to respond to efforts exerted by various parties in order to settle peacefully the dispute between them and noted, in this respect, Iraq's readiness to resolve the conflict and establish relations on the basis of good neighbourhood and mutual respect of national sovereignty of the two states.

The Bahraini statesman voiced his conviction that the Fes Arab peace plan remains to be the reasonable basis for a negotiated just and durable peace in the Middle East and reiterated his country's commitment to the plan.

Shaykh Khalifah also underlined that Arab solidarity was instrumental in facing the present crucial stage and overcoming obstacles blocking a just and permanent settlement of the Mideast problem to restore the Palestinian people's right of self-determination and establishment of an independent state on their national soil.

"Closing of Arab ranks," Shaykh Khalifah emphasized, "and the unity of Arab action are the only means to force Israel into admitting the Palestinian legitimate rights and withdrawing from Lebanon, the Golan and other occupied lands.

It can also put an end to Israel's continued provocations against Syria at the expense of the Arabs," he asserted in conclusion.

Meanwhile, in a similar statement H.H. the crown prince and prime minister, Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah hailed the visit paid by Shaykh Khalifah and the accompanying delegation to Kuwait and confirmed that a complete identity of views were shared duringtalks on bilateral relations, issues of the Gulf Cooperation

Council and Arab and Islamic questions, topped by the Palestinian problem.

"The visit," Shaykh Sa'd said "has achieved its aim of bolsltering bilateral cooperation within the GCC framework to ensure the safety, stability and prosperity of our region."

Shaykh Sa'd stressed the importance of such meetings and exchanges on challenges facing the region and the Arab homeland in order to work out positive and effective solutions serving the interests of the Arab and Moslem nation.

AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM on Arab Support for Syria

LD301317 Kuwait KUNA in English 1009 GMT 30 Apr 83

[Text] Kuwait, April 30 (KUNA) — The Kuwaiti "AR-RA'Y AL-'AAM" newspaper warned Saturday Israel and the United States that the Arabs will not leave Syria alone facing the Israeli-American aggression.

The paper editorially said the Arabs are aware that the danger is getting closer to them therefore they "entered the stage of a serious awakening of what is the latest aim of American-Zionist big plot."

The paper went on that the American-Israeli aim centers now on "liquidating the two Arab resistence bases left of the Confrontation Front, Syria and the Palestine Liberation Organization, in order to make the Zionist stream sweep the Arab Land".

"The U.S. and Israel believe that Syria will be alone when they launch their attack on it but the Arabs in this critical stage of fate will not leave Syria alone, no matter what differences they have among them", it stressed.

AR-RA'Y AL-'AAM expressed optimism that the Arabs will not stay silent and do nothing, and added "The bitter experience in Lebanon will not be repeated again, where all of the Arabs will stand up and run to help Syria in confronting the next expected invasion."

Kuwait To Have Second Year of Deficit Budgeting

GF291348 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 28-29 Apr 83 p 5

[Excerpts] Kuwait has budgeted for a KD850 million deficit for the year 1983-84. The total spending will be KD3,887 million, a rise of KD423,637,860 over 1982.

Last year, Kuwait had a deficit budget of KD258 million.

The chairman of the National Assembly Financial and Economic Committee, Mr Jasim al-Khurafi said the deficit includes a reserve deposit sum of KD303,700,000 retained for use by "future generations."

The committee has not finalised its budget details yet, but will meet on Sundays and Wednesdays (twice a week) to discuss it, he said.

Mr. al-Khurafi said that the revenue in 1983 is expected to total KD3,037 million, a fall of KD169 million as compared with 1982.Expenditure — excluding the reserve — in 1983 is expected to be KD3,554 million.

With its oil income falling, Kuwait has now had two deficit budgets running.

Last year, Kuwait's budget had been scaled down substantially and this year new austerity measures are expected.

SAUDI ARABIA

San'a' VOP Reports Abu Jihad, Fahd Meeting 28 Apr

GF281740 San'a' Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 28 Apr 83

[Text] Brother Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, met with King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz this afternoon. The latest developments in the region, particularly matters pertaining to the Palestinian question, were reviewed during the meeting.

AL-MADINAH on Secretary Shultz' Middle East Tour

LD011336 Riyadh SPA in English 1223 GMT 1 May 83

[Text] Riyadh, May 1 SPA — The American press holds U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz responsible for the failure of the Washington policy in the Middle East, a Saudi newspaper said today.

Commenting on Mr Shultz's current shuttle trip in the region to secure foreign troops withdrawal from Lebanon, the Jidda-based AL-MADINAH expressed hope that Washington would realise a minimum degree of success in the U.S.-sponsored Israeli-Lebanese talks on pull out of the Zionist occupation forces from Lebanon.

The paper deplored Mr Shultz and other U.S. leaders remarks on the PLO in which they said Washington would ignore the organisations role in current Middle East peace process in the region.

The paper said "The sudden suspension of the Jordanian- Palestinian summits talks to draw up a common approach on the Middle East policy is an outcome of the failing U.S. policy in the region."

The paper added that Washington should know that there would be no peace in the region without securing the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people including their right to self-determination and an independent state under the PLO'S leadership.

Riyadh on Optimism in U.S.-Lebanese-Israeli Talks

LD012227 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 1 May 83

[Husayn al-Askari commentary]

[Text] Action and reaction continue to be the framework in which the Lebanese-Israeli-American negotiations are still taking place to ensure the withdrawal of the Israeli forces from Lebanon, despite some observations that a cautious optimism has appeared on the horizon. This optimism is based on a statement by the prime minister of Lebanon, Shafiq al-Wazzan, in which he said that certain progress was made at the talks Mr Shultz had today with the Lebanese officials before leaving for occupied Palestine to meet the enemy's prime minister.

It is clear that observers who are following Shultz' shuttle diplomacy between Beirut and occupied Jerusalem have built their optimism on a statement from Lebanese sources that said, in effect, that the Lebanese side has accepted some of the ideas Shultzpresented, and has rejected others.

Thus, it can be said that the major points of disagreement between Lebanon and Israel are still there, forming the obstacle that is preventing an agreement at a [word indistinct] time. One reason for this disagreement, as is known, is the fact that the enemy insists that the renegade Sa'd Haddad maintain military responsibility for the area of southern Lebanon in any settlement. Lebanon strongly rejects this and regards it as interference in its internal affairs. There is also the problem of normalizing relations and opening the borders between the two sides; this is also unacceptable to the Lebanese.

But the belief that a cautious relaxation might lead to an agreement seems to be somewhat justified, judging by the fact that the United States seems to be firmer in dealing with any Israeli presence on Lebanese territory. This has been manifest in Shultz' visit to the (?region). Shultz' presence was preceded by a process paving the way for what the U.S. secretary could obtain. It is not feasible for Shultz to come to the region and then leave without achieving (?something) to maintain his country's prestige [word indistinct]. Furthermore, achieving these results will reflect on the development of the Arab-Israeli conflict in the [word indistinct] stage. This, it seems, Washington does not [words indistinct].

Dailies Comment on Situation in Lebanon

GF020600 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 2 May 83

[From the press review]

[Excerpt] The newspaper AR-RIYAD commented on the situation in the Middle East. Under the headline "The No's of Recognition; Who Is Going To Say Them?", the newspaper said: "Israel has stipulated the condition to the U.S. secretary of state that it will not be committed to any withdrawal from Lebanon unless the PLO recognizes Zionist existence on Palestinian soil and has said it has the right to this demand. This is the reverse logic that raises several possibilities — the most prominent being the consecration of Zionist presence in a sector of Lebanon in order to delay any negotiations concerning the West Bank and the Golan, pending a change of political characters at the White House during the upcoming elections, in order to present the negotiations within new frameworks and upon new bases."

Under the headline "Lebanon Between Two Pressures", the newspaper 'UKAZ editorially called upon the Arab countries to force the Israeli enemy miss the opportunity to pressure and blackmail Lebanon, and therefore, provide the appropriate grounds for the destabilization of the region. The newspaper said the U.S. secretary of state's visit will not achieve a just and comprehensive settlement to the Middle East problem if it is not based on the realization of the Palestinian people's just demands.

PDRY

Interior Minister Leaves for Libya 29 April

GF291748 Aden ANA in Arabic 1729 GMT 29 Apr 83

[Text] Aden, 29 Apr (ANA) — Brother Colonel Muhammad 'Abdallah al-Battani, candidate member of the YSP Central Committee and interiorminister, left Aden for Libya this morning on a visit that will last several days.

Brother Al-Battani carries a written message from Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council, and chairman of the Council of Ministers, to his brother ColonelMu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the 1 September revolution, on bilateral relations and the means to strengthen and improve them.

He was seen off by Brothers 'Abd al-Wasi' Sallam and Mutahhir Mus'id Muslih, the interior minister's deputies, and a number of ministry officials.

PDRY, USSR, CSSR Talks on Geographical Map Begin

GF302032 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 30 Apr 83

[Text] The first consultation meeting by countries (?implementing) our country's geological map began at the geological and mineral exploration department today between our country, the Soviet Union, and the CSSR.

During the 2-day meeting, coordination between these countries will be discussed in order to implement this project during the next 5 years in an area 71,500 square km in the western part of the republic. The Soviet Union will cover an area of 30,000 square km at an amount of $4,650,000; the CSSR will cover an area of (?16,000) square km at an amount of $2,650,000; our country will contribute the amount of 7.5 million dinars.

UAE

Heir Apparent Calls for GCC Military Maneuvers

GF020836 Doha QNA in Arabic 0745 GMT 2 May 83

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 2 May (QNA) — Shaykh Khalifah ibn Zayid, deputy supreme commander of the armed forces and Abu Dhabi heir apparent, has announced that the UAE naval force currently has a collection of French-made computer-guided Exocet missiles that can deal with targets at sea at a range of up to 70 kms.

In a press statement marking celebrations of Navy Day, that began in the UAE this morning and were attended by President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, the deputy supreme commander also said that there is an inclination to establish a chain of naval bases on the UAE coasts, and develop traffic istallations and warning units in order to tighten control over UAE territorial waters and the 360-mile-long coasts on the Arabian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman.

Shaykh Khalifah ibn Zayid called upon the GCC member-states to take steps, in due time, to hold joint military training maneuvers among the GCC military forces, especially the naval forces, which can easily travel from one Gulf country to another for such maneuvers.

He also affirmed that the UAE, and its sister-countries in the GCC, are responsible for the protection of the region's security and the necessity of keeping it away from international conflicts.

The naval celebrations included a demonstration with live ammunition by naval ships. In addition, UAE flags were flown over newly-commissioned naval units.

'Ali Interviewed on Peace, Arab, Soviet Ties

NC291130 Cairo Mena in Arabic 1040 GMT 29 Apr 83

[Text] London, 29 Apr (MENA) — Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali has stressed that Jordan must play an important role in the peace process, but that Jordan's King Husayn has not been empowered to play this role. In a statement to AT-TADAMUN magazine that will be published in London tomorrow, 'Ali reaffirmed the U.S. President Reagan's peace plan is considered a good premise for negotiations and movement. However, he added: We must recall that Reagan's initiative does not fulfill all the Palestinian people's demands and aspirations for self-determination.

'Ali emphasized that Egypt believes that the Palestinian people must enjoy their right to determine their future and pointed out that, among other observations on Reagan's plan, it did not mention the borders issue in its proposals.

On the Camp David future under the current developments in the area, 'Ali pointed out that President Reagan's plan is based on Security Council Resolutions 242 and 335 and on the Camp David accords.

On Egypt's foreign policy, 'Ali affirmed that this policy has absolutely not changed with President Mubarak's assumption of power. He pointed out that Egypt's current policy toward the West and cooperation with the United States are proceeding on the same previous pattern and basis. Regarding Egyptian-Soviet relations, 'Ali pointed out that Egypt is seeking to establish good relations with all countries but that our relations with any country must be based on mutual respect. In this respect he pointed to the current economic relations with the Soviet Union, where trade volume totals $350 million, in addition to the return of certain Soviet experts to continue and develop those Egyptian industries based on Soviet technology in the interest of Egypt's economy.

As for Egyptian-Arab relations, 'Ali pointed out that Egypt's relations with most Arab countries have recently witnessed some progress, represented in the visits to Egypt by Moroccan and Iraqi ministers and envoys from several Arab countries. He asserted that Egypt is not opposed to the normalization of relations with the Arab countries at any time and expressed his conviction that this will take place in the near future.

On the Iraq-Iran war, 'Ali voiced his hope that this war will be contained and halted, because any tension or deterioration in the area can affect the whole world and cause a confrontation among the superpowers. Therefore, he said, mediation efforts are continuing. He said Egypt supports Iraq because Iraq agrees to the principles of the 1975 agreement and agreed from the beginning to withdraw from Iranian territory and to enter peace negotiations.

Referring to Egyptian-Sudanese integration, 'Ali said: Both countries have agreed to move confidently and effectively to achieve this goal and in particular integration btween the Aswan Governorate and the northern governorate of Sudan. This is a good step within the framework of complete cooperation between the two countries. He stressed that economic issues are very important in integration and enjoy special attention. He added: We invite the international community to participate in the integration projects. He said that through joint financing, several joint projects will emerge.

'Ali Returns to Cairo From Romanian Visit

NC301425 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1335 GMT 30 Apr 83

[Text] Cairo, 30 Apr (MENA) — Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali returned to Cairo at noon today following a 4-day visit to Romania during which he handed a message from President Husni Mubarak to Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu. He also held talks with Yugoslav Foreign Minister Stefan Andrei on international topics, current world problems, Middle East developments, disarmament, and world economic problems in the light of the North-South dialogue and the South-South dialogue.

During his visit, 'Ali held a meeting with the heads of African diplomatic missions in Romania and affirmed Egypt's interest in strengthening relations with African states and its readiness to participate in development projects. He also affirmed Egypt's adherence to OAU objectives.

Ghali on Israeli Lebanon Pullout, Palestinians

NC011842 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1800 GMT 1 May 83

[Text] Beirut, 1 May (MENA) — Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali has stated that the quick withdrawal of the Israeli forces from Lebanon will give U.S. President Reagan's initiative the impetus it needs to overcome the several obstacles Israel has placed in its way.

In an interview with the Lebanese weekly magazine MONDAY MORNING to be published tomorrow, Ghali expressed the hope that U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz will be able to achieve progress toward an Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon during his current tour of the Middle East.

Ghali reiterated that Egypt has affirmed to the Israeli Government that its refusal to freeze the construction of Jewish settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip is in violation of a commitment that it made during the Camp David talks. He explained that the continuing construction of settlements indicates that Israel wants to impose new situations and facts and that it is working against the concept of autonomy and the Palestinians' rights, which it recognizes. Ghali noted that the Jewish settlements in the occupied territories must be dismantled or conceded to the Palestinians in return for financial compensation. He expressed the hope that the United States will be able to freeze the construction of these settlements very shortly.

Ghali on Peace Initiatives, PLO, Lebanon

NC291450 Cairo MENA in English 1400 GMT 29 Apr 83

[Text] Paris, April 29 (MENA) — Egyptian State Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali affirmed today that the Egyptian policy is based on intensifying diplomatic actions and drives

with the aim of giving further momentum to the Lebanese and Palestinian issues.

In an interview to the Paris-based Arabic language "AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI" magazine, Dr Ghali said that the Americans believe that President Ronald Reagan's peace initiative could be the starting point and that through negotiations the Arab side could submit new proposals, adding that then the Arabs could handle the initiative's passive aspects.

He further urged the Palestinian side to start fresh negotiations with Jordan to enable it [Jordan] to move and consequently the Americans [to move], the only side that can exercise pressure on Israel.

Dr Ghali said that Egyptian-Jordanian relations are very close, noting that constant contacts are underway between Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and the Jordanian monarch.

Dr Ghali warned that the American Administration might be occupied with other world crises and the Middle East question would be sidetracked.

Dr Ghali noted that before his departure for the United States, some Palestinian envoys arrived in Cairo and expressed their view which they wanted to communicate to the United States.

Dr Ghali told "AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI" magazine that the Egyptian ambassador to Tel Aviv would not return unless the Israeli forces withdraw from Lebanon or at least when Lebanon and Israel agree on a time table for withdrawal.

Dr Ghali said the U.S. should step up efforts to render the Lebanese-Israeli negotiations successful, particularly in the wake of the failure of a Jordanian-Palestinian agreement.

The blasting of the U.S. Embassy in Beirut means a resistance to the U.S. presence in the region and the U.S. diplomatic role there, he said, hoping that the U.S. would be able to counter these obstacles.

Dr Ghali said the French-Egyptian initiative on the Middle East, presently listed on the agenda of the Security Council, would not be discussed except after coordinating between the U.S. and European sides. Duality of action would not serve the Palestinian or Lebanese causes, Dr Ghali said, believing that any European drive should be concerted with the U.S. drive. Dr Ghali regretted that efforts for ending the Iraq-Iran war were doomed to failure but noted, "this does not mean that the diplomacy of the peaceloving nations has reached a deadlock".

Commentary Views Shultz' Current Tour

NC291514 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 29 Apr 83

[Usamah 'Abd al-Ghani Commentary: "Shultz and His Difficult Mission Between an Established Fact and Changes"]

[Text] After asserting at the beginning of his current Middle East tour that an agreement between Israel and Lebanon is imminent, U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz admitted yesterday, after his talks with Lebanese officials, that he found more difficulties in his mission than he expected.

We believe that if the U.S. Administration is convinced of the real and firm bases for establishing peace in the Middle East, Shultz's statements before he started his tour must not be ignored. Shultz has said that mission will become more difficult. The United States will be required in this case to bring about the complete withdrawal of the foreign forces from Lebanon beginning with the Israeli withdrawal. It will be required to stop the settlements in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

If the U.S. role is important, rather fundamental for establishing peace in the Middle East, Shultz had said that the United States cannot, despite all its efforts, become a substitute for the other parties in shouldering the peace burden.

Egypt, as a main party to the peace process and on the basis of its pan-Arab role, demanded that the U.S. Administration correct its stance regarding the PLO and recognize its role in the peace process.

In our opinion, if the PLO's recent stances were somewhat radical and hindered the peace efforts, this was due to the emergency stances connected with the ordeals the PLO had faced and the pressures it is facing. This stand is liable to change and cannot withstand the trend toward peace. Therefore, Egypt believes that the recent U.S. statements calling for the exclusion of the PLO will not facilitate U.S. Secretary of State Shultz' task. The U.S. Administration must acknowledge the PLO's vital and important role in reaching an agreement with Jordan.

Perhaps Shultz' statements at the end of his talks in Cairo at the outset of his tour, that the Egyptian ideas and proposals will be considered, is an indication of his conviction that a just solution of the Palestinian question is the firm basis for an overall solution and for the establishment of peace. If the sending of the U.S. Secretary of State to the Middle East now was due, as reported, to the U.S. Administration's conviction that the matter has reached a point demanding a change in faces, we hope that this will be coupled with an objective change in the U.S. view of the conflict based on the conviction that the Palestine question is the crux of the conflict.

Many faces have changed in the arena but they have either failed to absorb this firm fact, lost the courage to tackle the question with a civilized humanitarian approach and faith in the road to peace, or have been martyred because they dared to take that road. Faces have changed but the firm fact remains, namely that the Middle East conflict is an issue of a dispersed people who adhere to their land and history and to their legitimate representatives regarding their just issue.

AL-AHRAM on Current U.S. Peace Efforts in Mideast

NC292248 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2208 GMT 29 Apr 83

[Text] Cairo, 29 Apr (MENA) — AL-AHRAM mentions that there is information on the possibility of an agreement being reached between Lebanon and Israel, and that Egypt is following

the situation moment by moment. The paper, in its issue tomorrow, Saturday, adds that deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali, following his return tomorrow from Bucharest, will keep in touch with the U.S. ambassador in Cairo Alfred Atherton.

AL-AHRAM points out that, in the meantime, Egypt believes that achieving a speedy withdrawal of the foreign forces from Lebanon will encourage the other parties to cooperate with and adhere to a peaceful solution to the Palestinian issue — a matter which necessitates a Jordanian-Palestinian agreement for joining the negotiations with one joint delegation.

Cairo Radio Calls for Practical U.S. Measures

NC3014301 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 30 Apr 83

['Atif al-Ghamri Commentary "The U.S. Stand Must Not Remain a Mere Declaration of Good Intentions"]

[Excerpts] U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz' arrival in the Middle East should mean that the U.S. efforts have moved to a practical stage that will give momentum to the stalemated situation. No one imagines that Shultz has come to acquaint himself with the aspects of the situation or to shuttle between capitals to explore, study, and assess.

These stages have been exhausted by the efforts of U.S. envoy Philip Habib, who has lived the Lebanese problem for 3 years since he was entrusted with his mission in Lebanon in October 1977 [as heard]. Any activity requires that Israel stop its feverish drive to plant scores of settlements in the West Bank, that it end its occupation of Lebanese territory and that it accept the Palestinian people's right to determine their fate and to recover their occupied homeland.

The U.S. stand must be based on the fact that it is the party that has the most faith in its initiative and that it is the party most determined to implement it. It is true that President Reagan has declared on several occasions that he is determined to adhere to his initiative. It is true that Shultz has affirmed that his government will not abandon its plans to establish comprehensive peace in the Middle East. It is also true that Shultz has come to the area to affirm this determination.

However, in order to keep the Reagan initiative alive and to prevent the abandonment of the U.S. Government plans, executive measures must be taken that will transfer written views into reality.

A declaration of good intentions and hopes is not enough. In other words, if the United States believes that the settlements obstruct peace, that Israel's non-withdrawal from Lebanon endangers the chances of peace, and that Israel must end its control of the West Bank and Gaza, then it is its duty to impose on Israel what it is convinced of and what it is determined to do.

This is the substance of U.S. determination. As for good intentions and hopes, they remain form without substance.

AKHBAR AL-YAWM Reports Libyan Agents' Arrest

NC3008271 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0630 GMT 30 Apr 83

[Text] Cairo, 30 Apr (MENA) — The state's security intelligence has uncovered a network of Libyan intelligence agents in Egypt. These elements are linked with a Libyan scheme aimed at forming underground illegal organizations in Egypt under the name of "The Revolutionary Committees" and following Colonel al-Qadhdhafi's Green Book.

Cairo weekly AKHBAR AL-YAWM published this report and quoted a responsible source in the Interior Ministry as saying all the defendants who were detained admitted this scheme and that they hadobtained $40,000 from Libyan intelligence to form revolutionary committees in Egypt to work against the regime.

In Saturday's issue, the paper says the state's security intelligence has had information for some time about the activity of a Libyan intelligence agent, Lutfi Tulbah Muhammad Ja'far, who travelled several times between Cairo and various capitals to contact Libyan intelligence officials. A plan was devised to trace his movements and activities following permission by the state's Higher Security Prosecution. AKHBAR AL-YAWM reported on this network as follows:

By tracing Lutfi Tulbah's activities, the state security intelligence men discovered that Libyan intelligence had asked him to look for another Libyan intelligence agent who had received $500,000 to overthrow the regime in Egypt and disappeared several months ago. The investigation uncovered agent Lutfi Tulbah's two brothers working with him. One of them, Muhammad Rida Tulbah Mahmud Ja'far, who left for Libya in 1973 and worked as an adviser in the Socialist Union there and for the youths secretariat under Al-Hadi al-Fadl, was considered by Libyan intelligence as their reliable man to direct its agents within a framework hostile to Egypt. The other brother, Mahmud Tulbah Ja'far, who was an agricultural engineer in Shibin al-Kawm, returned to Egypt after being assigned by Al-Hadi al-Fadl to form revolutionary committees to topple the Egyptian regime.

Lutfi Tulbah admitted that his brother Mahmud Tulbah had received from Libyan intelligence $40,000 to form revolutionary committees against the Egyptian regime. During the past few months, the investigation organs monitored a contact between agent Lutfi Tulbah and certain elements — about whom information was available regarding their agentry to Libyan intelligence — which provided him with funds to form an organization hostile to the Egyptian regime. In February, Lutfi Tulbah contacted 'Abd as-Samad ash-Sharqawi and 'Abd al-'Aziz as-Sakhkhawi and informed them of the need to travel to Cyprus to meet with Libyan officials there.

The Interior Ministry official source said agent Lutfi Tulbah admitted that Mahmud 'Awwad Shfiq and Muhammad Mahmud Jad an-Nimr received $75,000 from Libya for the organization in Egypt and they took the sum without giving 'Abd as-Samad ash-Sharqawi and 'Abd al-'Aziz as-Sakhkhawi their shares. A disagreement ensured among them and then Lutfi and his brother Mahmud received a small amount of the money.

The state security prosecution ordered the detention of all the organization's members. They are: Muhammad 'Abd as-Samad 'Abd al-Jawad ash-Sharqawi, Muhammad 'Awwad Shafiq, Muhammad Mahmud Jad an-Nimr, and Muhammad 'Abd al-'Aziz as-Sakhkhawi. It transpired that some of them had left Egypt and that their contacts with Libyan offices and intelligence officers were monitored. On February 2 Libyan agent Lutfi Tulbah Muhammad Ja'far was arrested on arrival in Alexandria port with a Fiat 131 given to him by Libyan intelligence. A quantity of dollars and documents were seized from him. He admitted to his and his brothers Muhamad Rida and Mahmud Tulbah Ja'far's agentry for Libyan intelligence and that, so far, he had received $40,000 from the Libyan intelligence to form revolutionary committees in Egypt to topple the regime. Concluding its report on this netwark, AKHBAR AL-YAWM says the prosecution issued a decision imprisoning all defendants.

Death Sentence Urged for 57 Fundamentalists

PM291329 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 27 Apr p 3

[Muhammad Za'za' report: "Higher State Security Court Continues Trial of Al-Jihad Organization Members"]

[Excerpt] The Higher State Security Court yesterday continued the trial of Al-Jihad Organization members. Advocate General Raja' al-'Arabi delivered the prosecution speech rebutting all the ideas of the extremist Islamic groups. He said that the book "The Absent Religious Duty" [al-Faridah al-Gha'ibah] written by 'Abd as-Salam Faraj and used as the organization's constitution strays from the right course. In the book the author devised rules compatible with his criminal thinking by which he deceived both himself and those who followed him. He was hoping that with his black poison he would be able to penetrate young minds so that his ideas might incubate there and thus lead the young astray. The advocate general said that those who violate the Islamic Shari'ah and indulge in crime and aggression have been classified by Muslims and Islamic history as dissidents from society.

The prosecution asked the death sentence for 57 leaders and commanders of the Islamic organization.

Tomorrow The Higher State Security will resume hearing the advocate general's pleas which he began yesterday.

Two minutes after the court session began the court president had to adjourn the hearing after the defendants turned their backs on the court and began reciting the Koran in loud voices. Some of the lawyers intervened and persuaded them to maintain silence.

The advocate general discussed the ideology of the organization and the book. He also dealt with the general legal aspect of the crimes attributed to the organization as an armed gang that tried to overthrow the regime. He discussed the attitudes of the defendants and the crimes they committed and the penalties to be applied to them. He cited the incidents [in October-November 1981] which resulted in the death of 87 police officers, policemen, and citizens and the wounding of 156 policemen and citizens. The advocate general submitted to the court two albums of pictures of the victims, dead and wounded, of the Asyut incidents to be included in the case file.

Text of Saddam Husayn 27 Apr AL-ANBA' Interview

GF281454 Kuwait AL-ANBA in Arabic 27 Apr 83 pp 12-15

[Interview with President Saddam Husayn by Nasir ad-Din an-Nashashibi in Baghdad — date not given]

[Text] Tomorrow, Thursday, Iraqi President Saddam Husayn bids farewell to his 46th birthday and begins his 47th year. I said to him trying to pick up the thread with which to begin my interview: Tomorrow, Mr President, is your birthday. One is accustomed on one's birthday to be introspective and to take oneself to task and ask what needs to be done in the years to come. Can I ask you to tell me about your "reflection of yourself" on your birthday tomorrow?

The leader, who has been saddened by the war, smiled and immediately answered:

I do not think of being introspective only on my birthday because I am accustomed to being introspective daily. Every morning I ask myself about everything and take myself to task on everything. I say to myself very frankly: Why have you come to this post? What is your objective in assuming this post? What are your duties? What have you gained and what have you lost? Where did you go right and where did you go wrong? I am also very anxious that my children are not ignorant of the details of their lives with me and my life with them and of all my family history so that none of my children will imagine that he was born as the president's child or that, God forbid, he is different from any other child. I always remind them that they must carry out their duties to themselves and country like any good citizen. I assure you that I do not wait for my birthday to take myself to task. Is that possible? Does one take oneself to task only once a year or, say, once a month? No sir, I do not think of such topics because I believe it is my duty always to have a constant dialogue with myself, to take myself to task, and to review mistakes in order to avoid them in the future and take pride in the victories and achievements and repeat them. Do you understand me? I am unceasingly taking myself to task, whether on my birthday or on any other day of my life.

As President Saddam Husayn was speaking, my mind drifted away to my interview with him 2 and 1/2 years ago. Our meeting was in the same place, in the same office, the same capital, and in the same circumstances.

He has grown 2 years older, but his determination, stubborness, and faith in himself have all increased a thousand times.

Such are the miracles of war — they forge its heroes through pain, test its men with experiences, and nourish its leaders with hard work, decisive decisions, crucial battles, good performance, and the cherished victory.

Two years ago Saddam Husayn spoke about what he called "Iran's ambitions" and on the night before last he spoke about the "crimes" of Iran's rulers. Two years ago he spoke about the battles and this time he spoke about the victories. Two years ago he spoke to me of his doubts about the Iranian revolution, and this time he revealed to me the secrets and put before me the documents, stories, and figures on the "deeds" of the Iranian revolution. Two years ago he spoke to me about the birth of the new Iraqi citizen, and this time he spoke with pride about the birth of the modern Iraqi soldier. Two years ago the horizon was full of anxious expectation, and on the day before yesterday the situation was full of winning confidence. Two years ago he spoke to me about the circumstances of the outbreak of the war, and on the day before yesterday he spoke to me about the conditions for a cease-fire. However, Saddam was — except for the 2 more years added to his life — the same. His speech was clear, his face was frank, his tone of voice was strong, his faith was deep, his confidence was high, and his views were like the waters of the Tigris flowing gently and continuously. The only change that drew my attention in Saddam Husayn is that 2 years ago his hands had toyed with a Havana cigar while now his hands toyed with a classic pipe.

The conversation continued as follows:

He said to me: With those whom I like and respect I cannot stand having a question-and-answer interview. First of all I want to tell you this: However much an official tries to free himself of the nature of the state he heads or stays away from the framework of his responsibilities, he is constantly tied to daily tasks which sometimes prevent him from thinking about the positive and negative aspects of his policy or the policy of his country. I want to ask you, as an Arab nationalist who is free of the constraints of official state work, about the positive or negative aspects you see in contemporary Iraq, particularly in the present stage.

I admit that the question astounded me. I tried to answer by insisting on talking about generalities and not going into details. I said to the Iraqi president that to Iraq goes the credit for choosing to be the first defense line in the face of the expansionist current that threatens the Gulf's Arabism, and that Iraq has paid for this with blood and money and at the expense of its prosperity and development projects. I said that the war has fused Iraq and turned it — as I have seen it — into one united people without parties, groups, or sects. However, and here we come to the negative aspects, the war has exhausted Iraq financially and distracted it from its principal task of building the land and the people. The war has also diverted Iraq from giving the necessary attention to Arab and national causes, foremost among which is the Palestinian cause.

I added: Forgive me, Mr President, when I say that this war may have encouraged the enemy to persist in his defiance and aggression whether in the West Bank, Lebanon, or politically. This war has also encouraged some people to underestimate Iraq's strength and encouraged some small people to arrogantly assume the role of big people. Iraq was not there to carry out its national pan-Arab duty toward Arab causes so others took it on themselves to carry out this duty.

Saddam answered: I have told you that I favor a dialogue when giving an interview to Arab brothers whom I respect and whose prestige I recognize. This is because a dialogue gives me the opportunity to learn from them and gives my brothers the opportunity to learn from me. The most important point is that we should attempt to find the "Arab defect" and try to find the best way to remedy this defect. For instance, we must know why we are in such a state. Even when we are in our best state we must

know why, and look for the factors and circumstances that led to the state we are in, whatever that state may be. I believe that we can achieve this through dialogue. Anyone who looks at Iraq is bound to see the picture of war in front of him, whether in reality or in imagination. Was the war necessary? All the heroism demonstrated by the Iraqi soldier in the war notwithstanding, was the war necessary? The answer, my answer is: "Definitely, it would have been better if the war did not take place." However, the war has taken place as a result of circumstances and reasons that are tantamount to a "compulsory option," or "voluntary compulsion" as we call it. That is, the Persians were planning to occupy Iraq and then threaten the Arabs with destruction, and after removing Iraq from the scene and without resorting to military force, compel the Gulf Arabs to feel alien and be swamped by a Persian flood and consequently immigrate from their countries and leave their homes.

Saddam Husayn continued: Perhaps some Arabs are willing to become "Persianized," even temporarily, because of a lack of awareness or protection. However, after some time they will discover that they were mistaken, that a catastrophe has occurred, and that it is too late to avert what has happened. The truth does not lie merely in the aggression launched by Iran on the morning of 4 September 1980 against Khanaqin, the oil installations, Mandali, and Basra, the closing of Shatt al-'Arab to our shipping, and the participation of the Iranian Air Force in the aggression. All this took place prior to 22 September 1980. If all these acts of aggression were "merely a technical error" — as Iran claims — then despite the enormity of the action and the terrible justification, the matter would have been simpler.

However, Iran's intentions were exposed. These intentions were to occupy all Iraq. All the aggression committed against us at that time was to pave the way for such an all-out attack. At the beginning of the war we were exposing Iran's long-term goals in Iraq and the Gulf countries to the world and to our Arab brothers. We warned against Iran's expansionist ambitions and criminal intentions when the Iraqi forces entered Iranian territory at the beginning of the war, but some people used to doubt our words. We remained silent in the face of these doubts until we withdrew to our border. Shortly after, that is, after tha battle of Al-Muhammarah [Khorramshahr], the rulers of Iran themselves began to reveal their true intentions and refer to their long-term plans and confirm everything we had already said about them at the beginning of the war. The world has heard them say to the Arabs and to others that the Iraqis' return to the international border is not sufficient to end the war; they want to overthrow the Iraqi regime and establish an Islamic government in the Iranian manner, that is, annex Iraq to Iran! When the Arabs tried to ignore such statements by the Iranian rulers, the Ira. ns declared that they intend to advance into Iraq and the [illegible] people in Basra must welcome the liberating Islamic army! They launched their aggression in July 1982 in Basra and failed. Then they attacked from the direction of Mandali and failed, and they attacked Misan and failed. They repeated their attacks on the Misan front, again and again, and again and again they failed. Fate helped us, and God was with us and made the Iranians themselves reveal intentions and matters that were far more serious than anything we were saying about them. Yet, despite their failure, they persisted, under the influence of their well-known Persian arrogance, in talking about their intentions. They are constantly and obdurately talking about their plans and in much clearer terms than the terms we were using about them. Prior to the recent battles in Ash-Shib they were planning and calculating and preparing their forces to ensure the success of their expected attack against us. Perhaps it is this which prompted Khomeyni to say to us prior to his latest attack against us: "When we enter into Iraq we do not intend to occupy Iraq but we want to remove the Iraqi Army away from our cities and create the circumstances for the establishment of an Islamic government." What prompted Khomeyni to say this? The answer is that despite all his setbacks he believed that the latest attack may be successful so he gave rein to his dreams and began to talk about an advance into Iran and occupation. Thus the matter is not merely a technical military error against Iraq, nor is it a transient military whim. It is part of a strategy that has been agreed upon by the ruling Iranian leaders with the aim of expanding into Iraq and the Gulf at the expense of the entire Arab nation.

President Saddam Husayn continued: When the facts become known so easily, and hostile intentions emerge so clearly, and in the words of the enemy himself — and in a manner that is not based on conclusions but on glaring facts — then the world and everyone should realize that our preoccupation with the war has, objectively speaking, not distracted us from our responsibilities and duties toward Palestine, Lebanon, or other causes. We have been honestly discharging an important historic role which, if we had not carried it out, there would not have been anyone left capable of carrying it out. We are not only defending Iraq, but we are defending an Arab base called Iraq that is part of the Arab nation and the Arab homeland. This is what causes us, 3 years after the war and despite all the sacrifices, not to lose our enthusiasm for construction, intellectual development, the flourishing of the arts, and building a modern civilization, and not to lose our enthusiasm or forbearance in facing the consequences and costs of the war.

Our unflinching and unwavering will draws its strength from our knowledge that we are defending not only Iraq, but the entire Arab nation. This is why everyone is equally enthusiastic. This is also why the battle has made everyone equal, the old and the young, men and women. If such is the situation, and it is so, then our situation in Iraq is like the farmer who plants palm trees or plants an olive tree and irrigates it with his children's blood. He who plants palm trees or olive trees and irrigates them with his children's blood is totally different from he who plants barley in a land where rain is not guaranteed. Those who depend on water in growing barley wager on the unknown, while the growing of palm trees is inherent in the new Iraqi who has borne the woes and costs of war, was able to remain reasonable and preserve his cool nerves and will, and proceed in the task of domestic construction with all his capabilities.

This is the new Iraqi whom we had hoped to be during our youth and demonstrations, and we hope every Arab to be like him, capable of giving, capable of being patient, capable of exercising a free will, and capable of being determined in confronting difficulties. This Iraqi has not been, and will not be, crushed. This personality which we preserve and develop, continues to be, thank God, healthy and sound. It is a personality that does not retreat, but develops and becomes more integrated. It seeks to unite

Iraqis and eliminate sectarianism and tribalism so everyone moves in the same direction, seeking the same goal. This is exactly what has happened and is now happening. When the war is over, this good harvest will be able to achieve in the field of construction and in defending the Arabism of our nation much more than others. The war has created the new Iraqi with a strong will who is full of determination and who will employ these qualities to serve the homeland and defend the nation.

President Saddam Husayn added: Regretably, some Arabs are unaware of these facts, although the enemy knows them. I do not mean a particular group of Arabs, I mean some good-intentioned Arabs are unaware of this clear, human equation and have left the task of understanding it and realizing its consequences to the enemy alone. Do you now understand why the war has lasted so long? When they kindled the war, they imagined they would be able to destroy Iraq in a few days. When they failed to achieve this dream, they prolonged the war in the hope of destroying us. When they prolonged the war and saw with surprise the birth, formation, and upsurge of the new Iraqi, they continued the war to crush this new Iraqi. However, I say to them that this new Iraqi has been born in a totally healthy climate that enables him to see the attractive issues in the horizon that always pull him forward.

This is with regard to us. As for our enemy, the situation is totally different. Do you know their situation? Many people welcomed the Iranian revolution at its inception. Many pinned hopes on it. Many expected good from it. Some people said that the revolution will be a support for the ummah, while others hoped that it would not be a burden on the ummah. Some people forgot the bad social and political domestic situation that existed in Iran prior to the Iranian revolution. They believed that the Iranian revolution is an Iranian miracle, and I say that the real miracle is that the revolution was so late in taking place, despite the fact that all the factors for a revolution existed. They resorted to the pretext that Iran's membership in CENTO had encircled Iran and prevented the Iranian people from carrying out their revolution. There were countries other than Iran that were members of CENTO, or of the Baghdad Pact, but such membership did not prevent these countries from carrying out their revolution 20 years earlier. Do you understand me?

Saddam Husayn added: It was said that what's new in the Iranian revolution is that it spurns the temptations of modern life. What are these temptations? Sex and alcohol. Those who say this forgot the extreme moral and social disintegration that surprisingly existed on the popular level inside Iran prior to its revolution. They forgot that Iran was like a big wall within which the worst deeds were committed. Children, women, and the old, the cities and the countryside, the ruler and the ruled, were all affected. When the Iranian revolution took place, instead of curing the situation by creating a balance in Iranian life, the revolution took a course that was to the other extreme. Extremism is harmful to society. It will not achieve any results. The extremists will eventually indulge in the pleasures that were forbidden to them by other extremists. There are examples of this we can see in bringing up children and adolescents. Extremism in religion will inevitably lead to the creation of a state of atheism in Iran. We hope that someone will emerge from among the Iranian people who is capable of creating a sound balance between the approach to life and the approach to religion, without exaggeration, extremism, emotionalism, or playacting.

Some people's views on what happened in Iran were mistaken to the extent of being criminal. We had hoped that the Iranians and their revolution would develop for the better. Prior to the Iranian aggression against us on 4 September 1980, we in the leadership were studying what was happening. There were three views in our leadership with regard to what position should be adopted toward their revolution. The first advocated a hostile stand to the Iranian revolution because of its hostility to us. The second view advocated cooperation with the Iranians regardless of their hostile statements against us. The third view advocated cooperation with them on the basis of normal international relations, hoping they would improve and watching out for their intentions without making them feel we were friendly or hostile. I was an advocate of the third view, and this is the view that Iraqi policy followed — even prior to my becoming president. We decided to cooperate with them and hoped that their position would improve. However, at the same time, we were ready for any evil actions on their part so we would not be taken by surprise. Our Arab brothers were divided among these three views.

Saddam Husayn continued after lighting his pipe for the tenth time: I mean that some of our Arab brothers wanted to declare their hostility to the Iranian revolution from the first day. However, we said to these brothers: We must be patient, study, and watch. We must not be the first to show hostility to anyone in Iran so it will not be said that the Arabs did not give the Iranian revolution a chance. We said to our Arab brothers that we shall say to the Iranian revolution that we wish it well, but we will also say to it: If you want to serve the Arab nation, you must respect it, and if you want to be good neighbors to the Arabs, you must treat the Arabs well. Some of our Arab brothers agreed with us on this policy. However...

I interrupted: However what?

He said: However, it became clear later on that the Iranian revolution harbored evil intentions toward the Arabs in general, and Iraq in particular. In view of the abovementioned reservations, which Iraq had toward the Iranian revolution, Iraq was aware of developments and was therefore not surprised by its hostility. We were right to take into account any possible Iranian aggression against us. When the aggression occurred, we were not taken by surprise. We did not initiate any hostility to the Iranian revolution that could justify its hostility to us, but dealt with it calmly, with good intentions, and on the basis of neighborliness. Thus I say to you, that the concentration of Iraq's efforts on this war, that was imposed on it, was not a diversion for the required Arab efforts to achieve their proper goal, but a channeling of Arab efforts in the desired course against an enemy who wants to usurp Iraq and humiliate the Arabs. Consequently, watching such an enemy, lying in wait for him, confronting and fighting him, became matters that placed Arab efforts in their correct and natural channel.

Saddam then asked: Were we supposed to acquiesce to the enemy's first demands and therefore encourage him to take all of Iraq? The result would be that we would lose Iraq and would not gain the enemy whom we wanted to be a friend but who

insisted on being our enemy. War, in my view, is a great evil, and its consequences are equally evil. However, when wars break out in circumstances like those I have mentioned to you, circumstances that I have compared to voluntary compulsion or compulsory option, then such wars can have important positive results in accelarating Iraq's progress, and above all, in creating the new Iraqi who has a balanced view of life and work.

Saddam Husayn paused briefly as though he was watching the smoke rings from his pipe rise in the room and said: There are some mice who exploited Iraq's preoccupation with the war to butt at the major causes and pretend to have what mice do not have. I say to you that illusions do not make mice anything other than mice. The king of the forest remains king whether he is free or in a cage. The king of the forest remains king and the free mouse remains a mere mouse.

[Question] What are the elements that make up the strength of a contemporary Arab ruler?

[Answer] There are two elements: the first is historic, the secondis transient. Each of them has its own calculations. The second element, the circumstantial and transient element, is the force that depends on the funds that are available, the ability to meet life's expenses and living requirements, and organizing one's home well. The historic element that is capable of changing a nation for the better, is seen when the ruler is not separate from the people in spirit, will, thoughts, sentiments, and demands. Then the ruler becomes a leader, and the people do not become governed, but are comrades in the process of daily construction and comrades in arms in the battle. The war has taught us that our real ability does not lie in the weapons we have — despite the fact that such arms are necessary — but that our strength and ability are the will, steadfastness, and ability to fight that are to be found in our fighter's heart. The fighter is not a group for ministers, or members of the Revolution Command Council [RCC], or Saddam Husayn, but all of these are judged according to their position, role, responsibility, and support for the people in expressing the people's will to fight and the high standard of their performance in battle — in a manner that satisfies the conscience, justice, and development.

As for those who aspire to butt and carry out roles larger than themselves, I ask them and ask myself: What roles do they want for themselves if they just want acting roles? Very well, they can go on trips, travel, hold meetings, pretend in front of the people, and attract attention under the spotlights. However, by such behavior they are like a trapeze artist who will soon fall from the rope and break his neck. Or do they aspire to carry out historic roles? My answer to them is: Fine. I hope that they will do this. However, this wish will not come true unless they move from the small canals to the high seas, and unless they get rid of their simple, technical, tactical, temporary, and cheap role, which is at the expense of values, and move to a true and fruitful role that is full of values, a role in which tactics serve higher values.

Saddam asked me in his frank and revolutionary tone: What is that role that such people can play? They feel like prisoners of their palaces or offices. None of them dares to go to the streets and see the people's looks haunting them with hatred and damning them, as though calling for salvation from them. No Mr an-Nashashibi, honorable roles are bigger than these little people, and little people are smaller than the big roles they dream of assuming. Incidentally, I say to you clearly, and you can quote me on this: We do not wish, nor do we allow ourselves to wish, that the number of bad rulers among the Arabs increases so we can appear good rulers. This is cheap thinking and we do not sink to such a level. It is only dwarfs who have no sense of responsibility who think in this manner. Such people want easy, open lands because they hate peaks. For us, we wish that even the bad Arab ruler will have the opportunity that will enable him to improve himself for his people. We believe that his nation needs a good ruler, and we believe that the nation is capable of absorbing thousands of chivalrous rulers and thousands of good leaders who can rise to a higher level from which they can defend their country by building and then by defending such construction if it should be threatened.

I asked Saddam Husayn: What else did you learn from the war and its lessons?

Saddam Husayn answered: We learned a great deal from the war in the field of foreign policy. The war has taught us that the "big people" do not look at the "little people" with respect unless the little people are necessary for the big people to remain big. The war has also taught us that the emotional aspect of international politics must be manipulated by the mind according to the requisites which the mind considers serve the interests of the nation and the entire homeland. The war has also taught us — although we were not unaware of the lesson — that one must not equate between relying on one's friend and relying on oneself, or to rely on a friend's friendship as much as you rely on one's friendship to oneself. Also, you must not pass judgements in your reliance on your friend, before you yourself test the friendship of this friend by action and experience so there will be no surprises and so you will not live on illusions.

I asked Saddam Husayn: What is the personal lesson which you yourself have learned, Mr President?

Saddam Husayn answered, raising his hand: Events did not bring me any surprises. During the meetings of the Iraqi command, at the beginning of the war, my colleagues in the command asked me about the position that Iraq expects its Arab brothers to take. I answered them: The Arabs are as you see them. Do not expect much good from them, and do not be too annoyed at anything that happens to you because of them. We must encourage the growth of good sentiments, of the good among them. We must also encourage the good Arabs to continue their assistance to us if such assistance is forthcoming.

[Question] When was that, Mr President?

[Answer] At the beginning of this war. He continued: They asked me about the Arabs. Who are with us and who are against us? I answered my RCC colleagues: Do not burden the Arabs more than they have the strength to bear. It is unlawful to do so. We have to bear the burden for the Arabs, not let them bear Iraq's burden. But if the good people among them helped you, we must all welcome these feelings and appreciate them and encourage their people to continue to do so by appreciating them.

As for the rest of the world's countries, I told the RCC that we have friends who would not harm us and we also have enemies who would unleash their swords to fight us exactly as Iran is doing. As for who would be with us among these foreign countries, I told the RCC that we should not enter into our calculations that anyone would enter this war with us, but if we find some who extend their hands to us, we must welcome them, appreciate their aid, and do everything to encourage them to continue their amicable stand toward us.

I interrupted the president: I still would like to hear from Your Excellency the international surprise.

He answered: The surprise was that the international situation was less evil, or better than we expected it to be.

[Question] And the Arab [situation]?

[Answer] As we expected. The good people responded to a certain limit and the evil people acted diabolically. They were not a surprise to us.

[Question] As for those who assisted you, did they participate with you?

Saddam Husayn was silent for a while, puffing his pipe constantly. He then sighed, moved his eyes throughout the office in anxiety and worry, and said:

I beg you not to insist on this matter. I beg you to relieve me of talking about the Arabs. I may say something about the Arabs which I would not like to say. I beg you to avoid talking about the Arabs. I do not want to talk other than the truth and I do not want to harm any of the Arabs. Please, leave this matter.

[Question] All right. I understood from you that the international situation was less evil than you expected.

[Answer] Exactly, exactly. I will tell you something which is no longer a secret to my RCC colleagues. 'Abd an-Nasir's experience was the most important lesson for us in this war. We learned from him not to depend on any foreign country, either in its promises or in its accords with us. We learned how to deal with other countries in the language of the present. If they tell us they will give us something or do something for us, that's fine, but we will not enterthis into our plan or enter it into our calculations, figures, or plans of battles. And if it does come about, we will be ahead. Otherwise, we will not lose anything or be surprised and thus go astray. The lesson from 'Abd an-Nasir's experience is the most important and most cherished one which we — and indeed I myself — have learned.

I asked him: Do you mean the 1956 aggression or the 1967 war?

He answered me with the same quietness and sadness: I mean all his wars, experiences, victories, and crises. Even the lesson of As-Sadat's rule and his coup against 'Abd an-Nasir, his heritage, his principles, and revolution was for me the biggest lesson in observing and following up the developments of rule. I do not mean the method of security organs, but the method of bringing [others] into account, study, followup, and vision.

He added: And also the experience of our party in Syria in 1963 and 1966. As for inside Iraq, there is the 18 October experience. Do you know the 18 October experience? In it we learned how the Barameks [Baramikah] could infiltrate into positions of power and authority under Arab cover and how they could approach the nearest spots to strike at their target. Do you understand me? The Barameks are still there even though they are not Persians. This lesson made us wary and vigilant, and surprises were out of the question due to our vigilance and cautiousness. We relied on ourselves and on the Iraqi people's strength and genuineness. When the danger increases, we try to raise the morale and spirit of the Iraqi people. For the record, I assure you that no incident or military and political situation during our present march surprised me. Rather, our present circumstances and the truth we are experiencing have developed and improved more than I expected them to. Our revolutionary present has developed as I wished it to, not as I expected it to. Do you understand me?

I answered: Yes, President.

I then asked him about the recent military battles.

[Answer] In the recent battles, the Iraqi Army scored glorious and honorable victories in the history of this country. These victories are considered a radical and new turning point in this war. You will ask me: Why? I tell you it is because the recent victory was scored 3 years after the outbreak of the war, not 2 days or 2 months after it. If you saw some of the documentary films on this victory, you would understand my words and how the victory was scored and how it led to the complete withdrawal of the attacking forces and a completevictory for the Iraqi forces. The most important thing in it is not the type of weapons or the difficulty of the battles, but the fighting spirit of the Iraqi soldier, who fought his enemies with bayonets, knives, and hands until they were forced out of our land. This took place, as I told you, after 3 years of fighting. The Iranian regular army and "revolution guards" were defeated after lengthy, detailed preparations and studied calculations which had them outnumbering us in the last attack by three to one. They chose the positions, timing, sectors, axes, and targets, but were defeated. That is why this should convince them that the military solution will not avail them anything.

I asked: Will it force them to return to political solutions and abandon the military one?

He replied: This will encourage the current thinking that holds this view among the people and those in authority, who will become more strongly convinced through facts that cannot be hidden.

I immediately asked President Saddam: Here one has to ask how and when will the war end, Mr President?

The president answered: As a result of the war the Iranians will definitely fail to achieve their aims against us. Consequently, they will become convinced that they really are unable to achieve their ambitions. As a result, a reasonable attitude will grow among the Iranians stating clearly that as long as they are unable

to achieve what they had wanted they have to be realistic in their relations with Iraq....

[Question] What about Khomeyni, Mr President?

Saddam Husayn replied: I believe that Khomeyni is not a man of religion but is a politician. In the light of this fact, I believe that a politician like Khomeyni cannot exclude the objective situation that faces him when he clashes with it or when he is unable to tackle it in the way he wants. The proof of the soundness of this analysis is the way Khomeyni dealt with the United States on the American hostages issue. When Khomeyni felt that the hostage issue was damaging him internationally and that he needed vast funds, loans, and grants, he issued an edict on the need to deal with the "arch-satan" and end the matter immediately.

The Iraqi president added: When Khomeyni becomes convinced that he is unable to advance into Iraq and that the war is taking toll socially, politically, economically, and on the popular level, he will issue an edict [fatwa] ending the war one way or the other, directly or indirectly.

I said to President Saddam: This means that in your view your war against Persia is not a war of attrition but is a real and all-out war involving everything that war means. Is this not so?

He replied: I knew what kind of war it would be before it broke out. I also knew that Iran would try to make us believe that its war would be a war of attrition so that it can tranquilize us and belittle the importance of its war against us. It was a trick and a deception by Iran. However, we were expecting the war and all it entails and we were prepared for it so that we can win it, and we disregarded all interpretations and lies by Iran.

I repeated the question: Then it is a war in every sense of the word?

He said nodding in agreement: Yes, it is undoubtedly so, and no one can prevaricate in the face of this fact.

I asked President Saddam about the debts which Iraq has incurred as a result of the war and he replied: Listen, Mr Nasir, you know present-day Iraq and you have known Iraq in the past. You know its situation. You know what Iraq is. You know it in these difficult days and you have known it in the recent past and in the distant past. I'll tell you the following story: One day I wanted to carry out a duty toward — and I do not say help — Some of our Arab brothers, and I mean a financial duty, despite the fact that we are living under war conditions. The brothers said they were surprised at our insistence on giving them such assistance while Iraq is in a state of war and its resources and funds are being depleted. We said to these brothers: Iraq is a big ship, and it takes a long time to fill up this ship. Similarly, it takes a long time to use the cargo of this ship. Iraq, whatever the burden of its debts, is a rich country, rich in its resources, potential, products, and people. I hate the language of figures, but I am confident of my country's capabilities. When the war is over Iraq will be able to repay all its debts without delay or excuses. We incurred these debts as a result of the war, and with the end of the war these debts will end. Iraq has developed in all fields, particularly in the field of the new productive "working" man, and is capable of fulfilling its commitments, repaying its debts, and developing its resources.

I interrupted: Is it true that the rate of inflation in Iraq has reached 50 percent?

He replied: These are imaginery and exaggerated figures. If you were to ask me: Are you facing financial difficulties or not? I would answer: How could we have been fighting for 3 years and not be facing financial difficulties? However, this does not mean we are financially strapped. We always arrange our affairs and organize and balance our budget. The situation is — as they say in Egypt — manageable [masturah].

[Question] Meaning?

[Answer] Meaning that it is a situation that does not call for anxiety.

I asked President Saddam: Is it true the war has compelled you to negotiate with the Kurds so as to bring them into government?

President Saddam Husayn answered: My reply to your question is that war can be an opportunity for those who deviated from the "ational [watani] line" to return to the correct path while saving their face, and not the contrary; that is, war cannot be a way or an outlet for restoring contacts with others. Our decision to grant the Kurds autonomy was made when Iraq was not in a state of war with Iran. When we began to enforce autonomy in 1974 Iraq was not preoccupied with any external issues. Iraq at the time was enjoying peace, prosperity, and tranquillity. The Kurds now are part of the Iraqi people and are represented in government by a number greater than that allotted to them in the text of the autonomy law.

However it is our right to say to those who are outside the course of our national life and remind them that they must return to national life before the war is over. If they return after the war their return will not be as good intentioned and altruistic as their return before the end of the war would be. We want them to return free of psychological complexes, and it would be so if it should take place prior to the end of the war, not after it. Our Kurdish brothers must share the national honor and shoulder their responsibilities like the rest. Consequently, when the opportunity and the occasion arise we will initiate the necessary dialogue with them and explain to them the existing circumstances and exchange views with them. This is not a sign of weakness or a sign of war. It is a sign of strength and patriotism and anxiousness for the unity of the Iraqi national ranks and the firmness of the home front, so that our edifice remains solid.

I said to President Saddam: The Palestinian question continues to be a wound in the heart of the Arab nation, particularly following the events in Lebanon. Can you tell me your view of everything that happened since the Zionist invasion of Lebanon and the consequent events, surprises, and blows?

Saddam Husayn answered, and there was bitterness in his tone: Do you not believe that Israel has bullied and exceeded the limits more than any Arab or foreigner had imagined? Do you not

believe that Israel itself feels that it has gone too far, further than what the enemies of the Arabs want, and further than logic, reason, and conditions would allow it?

He added: The answer is definitely yes. I believe it is incorrect for some European countries, the United States, or some other countries to imagine that the way to achieve peace between us and Israel is by allowing Israel to do what it pleases — attack, occupy, reject, annex, invade, and bully. No, peace with Israel does not and will not be achieved unless Israel realizes, through clear and logical arithmetical equations, that it will not be allowed to persist in its aggression against the Arab nation and insult Arab national dignity without fear of punishment or a reaction. No. Even if it had not been preoccupied with its war against Iran, Iraq would have been unable to carry out any tangible and significant military action against Israel so long as the Arab countries surrounding Israel are unable to say "no" to Israel, or are unable to allow Iraq to contribute to the battle and say "no" to Israel. You know we do not have any common border with Israel. What can we do? I will divulge this secret to you: When the aggression against Beirut took place I asked a group of colleagues to attend a meeting at the RCC. Before I went to the meeting I said to them: Despite our preoccupation with the war with Iran, I say that Iraq has never been a spectator in any war fought by the Arabs against a foreigner, and we do not want to be mere spectators in this tragedy. Why not dispatch two Iraqi military brigades to join our brothers there and their fate will be the same as the Arab brothers, Palestinians and others, fighting the battles of Beirut? At the RCC meeting we discussed how and by what route such a force could be dispatched, and which Arab country would allow the Iraqi force to transit its territory to Lebanon. We discussed the matter, and we held contacts, but we were unable to do anything. The Iraqi force that was prepared to support the brothers in Lebanon remained paralyzed in Iraq!

I said to the president: What has encouraged Israel in all this military and political aggression against us? Is it U.S. patronage, Arab weakness, these bad times, or what?

He answered: All of these factors. Had it not been for Arab weakness, disarray, and decline, the United States would not have been so bold as to ally itself with Israel in this manner. U.S. policy is based on clear calculations that indicate to U.S. leaders how much they stand to gain or lose in any political action they carry out in the field of international politics.

I asked him suddenly: If you were in Beirut and besieged by Israeli forces, would you have agreed to relinquish your positions and leave the country?

Saddam Husayn frowned like someone taken aback by a sudden piece of news and answered firmly: If I were in Beirut, what happened would not have happened. Therefore, the supposition is irrelevant. I am in Baghdad and the Persians were unable to besiege Baghdad and they will not be able to do so. I say this without belittling the greatness of the Palestinians' performance in resisting Israel. However, I am viewing the matter as a whole. I was unable to help Beirut from Baghdad. If you were to ask me clearly: Saddam Husayn, if you were in Beirut from the beginning — and I repeat, from the beginning — would matters there have reached the painful state which they have reached? I would have answered you immediately: No. Therefore, your question to me about the possibility of my being in Beirut during a short period that was part of the events that took place and about my ability to act during that short period of time is unrealistic. This is because as a result of my preoccupation with events in my country, Iraq, I was unable to be outside the country.

The matter is clear. There is another question: If Iraq had been in the state it was prior to the July 1968 revolution, would the Persians have been able to reach Al-Anbar [governorate in Iraq]? The answer: Yes, easily. Therefore, I say to you the following: Give me in Lebanon a march like the July 1968 march, and leave me in Lebanon from 1968 until the Israeli invasion of Lebanon and then you will know that Israel would not have been able to reach Beirut or besiege it.

I asked: What about the massacres in the refugee camps? What about the isolationists' persecution of the Palestinian refugees? What about the anti-Arab current that has begun to invade Lebanon? Do you have anything to say about this tragedy?

Saddam Husayn answered: We must ask those whom it concerns in Lebanon to return to the Arab fold and to remain there. However, before we seek to return Lebanon to the Arab East we must ensure that the Arab East returns to itself. Before the Lebanese join the Arabs, the Arab must be himself. We cannot ask part of a sick body to heal itself when the entire body is sick. We cannot ask Lebanon to arise when the whole nation is in a state of relapse. How can we ask sectarian and tribal Lebanon, the Lebanon of enlightment and thought, to speak on behalf of the Arabs while the Arab nation itself is incapable of speaking on its own behalf or expressing itself? If "clean" national standards had been prevelant in inter-Arab relations, bad currents would not have emerged in Lebanon as is the case at present.

I said: Is it the nation's sin?

He answered: No, it is not the nation's sin but the sin of those who are responsible for the nation. It is the leaders and rulers of the nation who are to blame.

I said to President Saddam: Talks on the Palestinian question have taken place and are still taking place. International and Arab plans have been put forth to discuss the fate of this issue. Meetings have been held in Jordan and elsewhere to agree on the desired solution to the Palestinian question. Does Iraq have anything to say on all these matters?

Saddam Husayn replied: I'll give you a few basic points and let you examine them and understand their significance. Before the war with Iran we were among the most active in calling for action and formulae in the field of Arab finance and economy to assist our brothers and carry out our national duty toward them and assist them financially in their causes. However, now, as a result of the war and the enormous sacrfices we have sustained, we no longer put forth any proposals in any conferences on financial and economic matters. Why? Because Iraq does not make a proposal unless it is able to be committed to it and implement it in full and make the necessary sacrifices for it.

You remember when we made our proposals at the Baghdad Arab summit conference to assist the Arab brothers we said Iraq will give so much, and Saudi Arabia will give so much, and the UAE will give so much. As a result of this stand our brothers in the Arab countries responded seriously and fully to our proposal because they sensed that Iraq was serious, sincere, and prepared to carry out its commitments in full, and that Iraq backed its proposal and that it had made a proposal to give and not to receive — and there is a difference between the two cases. Hence, our role now with out Arab brothers who are playing a direct role for the cause is more of a discussion role than one of making proposals. We do not want any of the brothers to say that Iraq is content with making proposals but is unable to do anything or to contribute anything in support of its proposals. Therefore, at present we only discuss all the proposals made by others in a spirit of fraternal dialogue and free discussion. You ask me: What is our view on current developments? And I answer you: Our stand on Jordanian-Palestinian relations is that we are gladdened by the strengthening of these relations, and we seek to strengthen them. We are happy with the maintenance of such relations. We always encourage them.

Moreover, we believe that if we should differ on any Palestinian issue with our Palestinian brothers it would be inconceivable for us to allow such differences to reach the well-known classical situation that arises in Arab differences. We are anxious to discuss things despite our differences and to be frank with each other despite our different views. We may differ with our Palestinian brothers, but we know and stress that the Palestinian view is above all closer to the mark psychologically and officially — and perhaps not from the point of principle — than our view. Therefore, we must not contradict any Palestinian view. Thus whenever we put forth any Arab matter we are anxious to ask the Palestinians their view before we discuss such a matter. If our view is different from the Palestinian view and we find that the Palestinians oppose this matter, we would immediately support the Palestinian stand and declare with them that we support it. We support the Palestinians, both in agreement and in opposition. The Palestinian view is important to us. We agree to everything the Palestinians decide upon; we do not oppose or contradict it.

I asked him: What about Fes and its resolutions, and what about Reagan and his plan?

He answered: I say it loud and clear: What the Arabs agreed upon at the Fes conference must be the only framework within which the Palestinian question is tackled.

I asked him: This means that you reject the Reagan plan?

He replied with clear frankness: Yes, I reject it.

I shifted the conversation with the Iraqi president to another topic. I said to him: What about the Iraqi nuclear reactor that was attacked by Israel?

He answered: I ask you, what is the secret behind Israel's fear of the Arabs? Israel worries because it knows what it conceals within itself from the Arab nation — its expansionist ambitions. Whoever acts in order to destroy these espansionist ambitions Israel tries to monitor in order to hit and fight him. It pays no attention to the reverberating and echoing Arab statements in the press, on the radios, and in speeches. It cares only about the details of each day, today's events in any Arab country. It reads the details of events and asks: Are these things capable of creating a good army, are they being implemented precisely, and are they correct? At that time, and if the answer to these questions is yes, Israel begins to worry.

He added: In the same way, Israel asks itself whether Arabs are being well prepared scientifically in accordance with the methods that have been prepared for such training. If the answer is yes, it becomes an Israeli concern.

If the Arabs reach a certain level in their interaction with modern science and technology in a form that would enable them to perform their required roles in these fields, Israel worries. Hence — it is still President Saddam who is talking — when Israel attacked the Iraqi nuclear reactor, it knew perfectly well that the reactor could not produce an atomic bomb but that it was capable of preparing the Iraqi to progress in science, in nuclear science, and in technology in a creative, advanced, and scientific manner. For this reason, Israel attacked our nuclear reactor. We ask: Israel attacked our reactor. Where is our assset now? Was Israel able to destroy the Iraqi? No. With such a blow, could it prevent us from dealing with France or any other country in order to obtain a new nuclear reactor? No. Israel succeeded only in delaying — just delaying — the technological transaction at the atomic level for a short time — mere delay, postponement. We decide how long the postponement will be. The decision to rebuild the reactor has already been made. The negotiations with France have continued for this purpose and they will succeed, and the reactor will return to Iraq.

With my eye on Cairo, I asked President Saddam Husayn: What is the secret behind the sudden rapprochement between Iraq and Egypt?

I heard the president say as if he were waiting for my question: Hah. He added: Before answering your question, I want to ask you one: What were the motives that made us host the Arabs in Baghdad's summit conference in 1978? Were they local Iraqi motives? Was it an Iraqi private interest? Was it merely circumstantial? Was it a process of bargaining or pretense?

My answer is: No, no, no. They were motives related to the Iraqi view, our view, of the future of our Arab nation and its development and the view of the Arab-Isdraeli conflict and its nature. I say the following to you: At that time we found that the aberration perpetrated by Anwar as-Sadat of going to Jerusalem and contracting the Camp David agreement was a horrible and ugly action that necessitated protecting our nation against its evils by closing the window that As-Sadat was hoping to open or to widen what was already open in order for his process to include other Arab countries. On this basis we called for the Baghdad summit and behaved with full responsibility toward Egypt and toward the Arabs and toward ourselves before anything else. Our reaction was obvious, clear, and open, whether with the facts of the situation at that time or with our Arab brothers or with the will of the Arab nation which insisted on rejecting the aberration and on refusing defeat.

That was all. Our national duty is to see the interests of our nation through a dynamic, free, and flexible view so as to call to account an official for the responsibilities of another official. I say that Husni Mubarak is not Anwar as-Sadat. This is an abstract fact that is beyond argument. Furthermore, Arab Egypt represents one-third of the Arab nation and this is another indisputable abstract fact. Thus, whenever we draw closer to the present regime in Egypt and to Egypt itself, we do a greater service to our nation and to ourselves because we would have sought to elevate the position of this nation and would wish it a better position under the sun. When we extend our hands to Egypt, and when we seek to return Egypt to the Arabs, we do not mean — by doing this — to place Egypt alongside Iraq in its war against Iran; we mean to place this entire nation next to itself and to place Egypt inside the nation in a manner that would offer the national power, strength, and glory. We intend to hold a dialogue with Egypt's leaders and its commanders in a sincere and friendly manner so as to be able to reach a balanced political formula that renders Egypt's return to the Arabs a factor of strength and not a factor of weakness. And in order, likewise, to render the interaction of this nation with Egypt a factor of strength for us and not an exhaustion for us or for Egypt, nor weakness for us or for Egypt, nor a waste of our powers or Egypt's powers. This is the spirit to which we aspire and these are the concepts to which we adhere with regard to choosing a friend and fighting an enemy.

I interrupted President Saddam saying: All this is true, Mr President, except for the fact that Egypt is tied to the Camp David accords and the neutralization of its forces as a result of the restrictions of these accords preventing the achievement of the noble aims to which you are referring.

He put down the pipe on the table near him and said immediately: Mr Nasir, Mr Nasir, we must not imagine that Egypt can, by its strength or will, dramatically or radically or suddenly turn toward the concepts which you are now talking about. I say to you that if the Arabs know very well Egypt's weak and strong points, Egypt also knows exactly the Arabs' strong and weak points. You must understand that no Egyptian official at present can rely on any promises by Arab rulers that they will stand by Egypt if Egypt should act in such or such a manner or if it declared this or that. Egypt is determined to weigh — with exact care — every step it takes in every situation.

Saddam Husayn then said as though he was searching for the right words: When Egypt's rulers take a sincere, healthy, and objective view, then Egypt will not delay in beginning its march toward the Arabs. We Arabs must understand Egypt's circumstances and must not forget — but always remember — the reasons that compelled Egypt to accept the restrictions of the Camp David accords. It is our duty to know the whole picture and try — as we say in Baghdad — to pull out the silk threads from a dress thread by thread and not in one go, hastily and dramatically, because haste will not enable us to pull out the silk threads which Anwar as-Sadat entangled in the mulberry tree. These are the facts. Then we should ask what opportunities and circumstances we should create for officials in Egypt with regard to their responsibilities to their Arab nation and what opportunities and circumstances we should create for the Arab nation to assist it in bringing Egypt back to its ranks, so that interaction is restored and each side will once again carry out its responsibilities to the other within one big, vital framework.

All our contacts with Egypt are based on this clear equation. All the steps we take with Egypt are in the direction of this great — and not any other — goal. I confirm to you that their foreign minister came to us and that we are in touch with them on various levels, and that we cooperate and our cooperation will increase to serve the interests of our nation and countries. We fear only God.

I asked him: We hope it will not be said that these gestures by Iraq toward Egypt are only intended to challenge Iran and win over Egypt to its side against Iran and annoy Syria, which has a clear stand and well-known view on this matter.

The president of Iraq replied: None of our political actions is intended to challenge or annoy Syria. We, sir, are not little people. These are meaningless petty calculations. The steps we take are not transient and tactical actions. They are part of a strategy that stems from our printicle, and a view in which we take pride and through which we understand Egypt's great role and responsibilities toward the Arabs and the Arabs' great role and responsibilities toward Egypt.

He added: We do not believe in tactics; we believe in the ideals for which we have lived and fought. Our steps toward Egypt are not connected with our conflict with Iran. This is because our war against Iran may end soon whereas our actions toward Egypt will continue with greater impetus and enthusiasm and will be more effective when we are in a state of peace.

I asked him: Do you believe, Mr President, that you will free Egypt of all the shackles that pull it away from the Arabs, and above all the shackles of the Camp David agreement?

He answered: Egypt will be free of all its shackles — I repeat, all its shackles — and difficulties because we have a responsibility toward it. It is our duty to assist it to break its shackles. We must not link Egypt's return to the Arabs to conditions which Egypt itself may not be able to fulfill. Egypt has inherited a heavy and painful burden, and we must behave toward it with great awareness, understanding, and vision. We must consult, cooperate, and plan together so as to remove the debris in Egypt's way and enable it to return to carrying out its national [qawmi] role, and this it very much wants to do.

I asked: Have you really sensed Egypt's desire to free itself of the shackles of the Camp David accords?

He answered: I am confident of the soundness of my feeling that a climate exists in Egypt that is capable of developing toward seeing these facts and interacting with them and with us. We as Arabs must create the conditions that will help Egypt to take steps toward us, interact with our causes, overcome all the complexes and difficulties, and develop.

He added: Egypt must not remain estranged from the Arabs any more, at a time when the Arabs are experiencing the most critical period in their history and are facing difficult challenges, conspir

acies, plans, and political solutions that threaten their very survival.

I said to the Iraqi president: However, some Arab countries, Mr President, are surprised that Iraq has extended its hand to Egypt, whereas these same countries have extended their hand to Iran and cooperated with Khomeyni and his regime against Iraq, its people, and revolution and supplied Iran with funds and weapons. These countries have buried their heads in the sand and imagined that no one knows the truth of their renegade role against the Arabs. Do you want to say anything about these countries and their rulers?

Saddam Husayn answered: I have already said all the harsh and strong words I could think of. We approached them with wisdom and good spirit one time, and we warned them many times. We are aware of all the strange actions that are taking place in some of the ports of the Arabian Gulf in the way of supplying Iran with goods and weapons at the expense of nationalism. It is not a matter of trade, but "some of them" are in full sympathy with Iran and plot against us and against the Arabs.

[Question] Why this plotting? How do you explain it, Mr President?

Saddam Husayn answered: It is a kind of deviation, or sabotage. Is not Major Sa'd Haddad a Lebanese citizen? Do you not see him audaciously and impudently dealing with Israel? This is what some people are like. Their relationship with Iran is the same as Sa'd Haddad's with Israel — the same standards. In both cases the judgment of history and the people will be the same.

The discussion then turned toward international politics and the intensification of the cold war between the East and West. I asked the Iraqi president: Is there anything in the intensification of the cold war between the two superpowers, the exchanges of warnings and accusations, and the deployment of medium-range and long-range missiles that serves our Arab causes and allays the fears that the big powers will agree at the expense of Arab causes?

Saddam retorted: Without considering minor field calculations, I believe that the world, and particularly the Arabs, has nothing to gain from the cold war, and that the interests of the world and the Arabs merge in bringing about international detente and setting it on its correct course, and not the contrary.

I interrupted: But...

He interrupted me: Let me finish. I am speaking about an international detente that is not confined to the two superpowers, but one that should encompass all international issues in general and soundly tackle the various international political questions with all their contradictions. Such a detente, which is based on justice and not on dividing up spheres of influence, is capable of spreading understanding and cooperation and moving away from the arms race. A state of true detente and not an agreement on dividing the world into spheres of influence is the road to peace in the world and to the good of all mankind. For such a detente requires certain conditions and the participation of other peoples in shaping and preserving it. I call for the establishment of a general detente that seeks the good of the whole world, and not only the good of Moscow and Washington, or the good of some at the expense of the whole.

I believe that the repetition of warnings to use nuclear weapons, the increase in expenditure on sophisticated weapons, talk about the balance of forces here and military superiority there, and warnings to use weapons of total destruction here and there — I believe that all of this is a cause of anxiety and not of satisfaction and does not serve our causes or solve our outstanding issues.

I asked: Why should we not exploit such differences to serve our interests?

He replied: I do not agree with you that it is in the interest of the Arabs that the differences between the giants should exacerbate or increase until they reach the brink of war, because that could bring about a disaster that would destroy the whole world.

He added: However, the Arabs can look for their interest within a different framework, and perhaps that framework is one of understanding.

I asked President Saddam: Is there anything in the resolutions recently adopted by the Nonaligned Conference that satisfies the Iraqi stand on the [Iraq-Iran] war? Are you satisfied with these resolutions?

He rejoined: I did not go to the Delhi conference. What was adopted at the conference was insufficient. What was adopted did not live up to all our hopes in the conference and in the good intellectual movement that lies behind and supports it. We believed the conference's general atmosphere could have enabled it to adopt more effective and positive resolutions that are more responsive to reality and to the facts of the war. However, it appears that the conference's administration was afraid to express the conference's atmosphere in the way it should have been expressed.

[Question] You mean the Indian Government?

[Answer] Yes, I mean India and Indian officials.
Saddam Husayn added: The conference was supposed to be held in Baghdad, but circumstances were not favorable. I believe it was in our interest, as Iraqis and Arabs, not to insist the conference be held in Baghdad and thus appear petty and lose our friends and weaken the concept of nonalignment by putting obstacles in the way of the Nonaligned Conference. Nonalignment deserves our responsible care. Therefore, when we felt that our role in the conference was not the one we had hoped for, we decided to agree on changing the venue of the conference to another country, despite everything.

Saddam Husayn smiled again and said: I knew the extent of great preparations, measures, and accomplishments carried out by Iraq in the way of hotels, buildings, roads, and radio and television facilties in order to service the delegations of the nonaligned countries in a manner that befits Iraq's dignity, hospitality, and civilization. I am also aware of the pain that was felt as a result of changing the conference venue to another country. No matter, the discussion has turned to a topic that affects me personally.

I asked President Saddam: Is there in your life any political or military mistake which you wish you did not commit?

The Iraqi president responded: There is no human being who wants to be true to himself and honest to history who does not admit that throughout his life he has not committed a political or nonpolitical mistake and that he does not regret it or is sad because of it. I am a human being like all others. I have experienced many things in my life, whether during my "underground" work or during my term in office. However, I have always been anxious to call myself to account and to identify my mistakes by myself, or not to prevent my brothers and comrades from telling me of my mistakes if they discover them. I listen to them and hasten to correct the mistake when it is found.

This is with regard to the mistakes, but it is my right to also talk to you about the victories. The life of people is a mixture of right and wrong, failure and victory. Is this not right? I tell you, Mr Nasir, the greatest, sweetest, and happiest victory of my life is the victory we achieved against the Persians in the recent military battles in Faqih, (Faqih at-Tib), and Misan. That battle has brought greater satisfaction than any other battle because — and you can put on record what I am saying — it will be the new and great turning point on both the political and military levels.

I asked: Do these words entail any wishful thinking?

He retorted firmly: They are words based on confidence, correct and precise information, logical interpretation, and sound analyses. I am confident of every syllable I said to you. Indeed, I am confident of the magnitude of the consequences of our recent victories — as though I am reading their results from an open book.

Two and 1/2 hours had passed. I said to the Iraqi president, as though wishing to broach a new subject: Iraq has always been the Prussia of the Arabs. Now, as our kinfolk in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip are being subjected to the ugliest forms of persecution, suppression, and occupation, and as our sanctities are being desecrated, distorted, and destroyed, is it not the right of the schoolgirls of Nabulus, the women of Janih, the children of Jerusalem, and the old men of Hebron to hear a word of commisseration or encouragement from their Iraqi brothers in the Arabs' Prussia?

Saddam Husayn was silent for a long time. He put his old pipe back into his mouth and poked it with a matchstick as though trying to extinguish his anger at what is happening to the Palestinians in the occupied territories by lighting his little pipe and exhaling the smoke.

I heard him say with a sad and hurt voice: Tell them: Let no Arab imagine, be he far or near, in Palestine or outside it, that we are far from him or that we ignore his tragedy or belittle his suffering. We do not want to emphasize to them that we truly feel with every throb of their veins or pulse of their hearts; we want to emphasize that Iraq will not allow itself to forget for one moment its national responsibilities toward its brothers and kinsmen, inside or outside the occupied territories and throughout the great Arab homeland. However, we will express our feelings only when the hour for which we are waiting and preparing comes, and then we will express ourselves in a practical, productive, and capable manner. Listen, sir. Tell your brothers in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip that every battle has its circumstances, and every situation has its moment of decisive confrontation that is capable of tackling and triumphing over its tragic meaning. Tell them that hope in the nation and in the Arab future will remain, and that the Arab citizen is — with time — learning and becoming more patient, more aware, and better prepared to make sacrifices and more precise and experienced.

I asked him, as though linking the Al-Qadisiyah war in Iraq to the war of liberation and the coming state in Palestine: Mr President, can I take the good news to our patient and forbearing kinfolk near Al-Aqsa Mosque, Al-Ibrahimi Mosque [in Hebron], Jabal an-Nar [in Nabulus], and the plains of the Arab triangle [between Janin and Tulkarm] in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip that 1983 will be a year of victory in Iraq's war against Iran?

Saddam Husayn replied, tapping the little table on his side with his fingers: I do not want to tie myself to a specific date or year. However, you can tell our kinfolk on my behalf that Iranian expansionist ambitions will end, that the plots against us will fail, that Iraq — their Iraq — will triumph, that we uphold our pledge to them, that all the forces that tried to destroy the new Iraq will proclaim their defeat in the face of the new Iraq, and that Iraq will continue to carry out its well-known pan-Arab responsibilities which are fused with the waters of the Tigris, the earth of Baghdad, the mud of the Euphrates, the palm orchards, and Iraq's istory through the ages. Tell them that in our current battle we take pride in the "participating" Arab and not in the "supporting" Arab, the spectator Arab, the gloating Arab, or the Arab who is lying in wait. We rely on God alone. It is God alone that remains when the earth exhausts what's inside it, and it is right alone that remains. "As for the scum, it vanishes as jetsam, and what benefits people stays in the earth." [Koranic verse] As I bid Saddam Husayn farewell, I did not know what prayer to say first: to pray for Iraq's victory against its Persian enemy, or to pray for the victory of my country, mosque, and people against their Zionist enemy.

I muttered as though praying: O God, is it too much to achieve victory in the two wars, in the two battles, in the two countries, and on the two fronts: the eastern and the western front, in Jerusalem and in Iraq?

King Husayn Interviewed by Beirut's AN-NAHAR

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[Interview given by King Husayn to the Beirut newspaper AN-NAHAR; published 30 April — read by announcer]

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn began by saying: Last year there were tragedies that were perhaps the most painful in our experience. Whenever we completed a certain phase, we imagined that we had bypassed the peak of our problems and difficulties, only to find ourselves facing more serious phases. The Israeli aggression against Lebanon, and the advance of the Israeli forces as far as Beirut, were very painful events. However, we had expected all this. I had pointed out the Israeli threats, the importance of restoring freedom and independence to Lebanon, and the need to rob Israel of the opportunity [to invade Lebanon]. I also pointed out Lebanon's special position. Despite all this, what we feared happened.

The Arab moves were at the level of the Fes summit. There was an Arab consensus that the aim was to realize a just, permanent peace. An Arab position crystallized, based on the UN Security Council resolutions and on various circumstances. We heard in the major world capitals in the West and the East, that Israel had come to stay. However, there is support, sympathy, and backing for Arab rights, in terms of the Arab territories that were occupied in June 1967, and of the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 242, which stipulated that occupation of territories by force is impermissible.

The king added: I held intensive contacts with everyone in and outside the Arab world on the aggression against Lebanon. I contacted the U.S. leadership, stressing the fact that Lebanon should restore its stability, regain its freedom and independence, and exercise sovereignty over its territory; thus, ending the darkness in which Lebanon has been living.

At the same time, we had to put emphasis on the central Palestinian cause. Israel should not be allowed to repeat its past behavior, create a new reality, leave the world to face this new reality, and forget the original problem. We hoped for an international conference to tackle the problem. When I felt that the U.S. Administration was about to present its initiative, I contacted the U.S. President and asked him the following question: Are our friends in the United States determined now to complete this journey to the end? If this was impossible for one reason or another, it was better to consider convening an international conference.

On 1 September, President Reagan declared his initiative to the U.S. people and the world. It was a result of his interest in the situation, and of his contacts and consultations with the two U.S. parties and the U.S. leaders. In Fes, we came up with the Arab peace plan. In fact, since the beginning of the Lebanese events, we had been in contact with our brothers in the PLO. We had always desired to establish the Palestinian people's right to a free opinion and to exercise their rights without trusteeship. We began discussing the situation out of our interest in this cause, with which we, the Hashemites, have a historical association. We will not go into ancient history and the Gaza of Hashim, but we would like to recall events from the beginning of this century.

On another level, we Palestinians and Jordanians are tied to the same fate. We are one family facing danger. The problem is that of the Palestinians' right to their soil and occupied land. Today, what is left of Palestine is threatened. As for the plans of the Israeli Government and Zionism, they openly stipulate that the Palestinians have an opportunity to establish their state in another territory. It seems as though the issue has changed from the one of Palestinian rights to a search for an alternative homeland.

The Sabra and Shatila and tragedies took place. It was my opinion that both the direct and moral responsibility fell on official Israeli circles, which had been responsible for similar events. The PLO and its leadership left [Beirut] because they agreed to leave on the basis of U.S. guarantees, as a result of Israeli pledges.

Israel rejected the U.S. initiative of 1 September through the Israeli prime minister. The practical reaction to this initiative was the increase in building settlements. If the expansion of settlements continues for even a short period of time, the present reality on the ground will change forever. Israel has also carried out other forms of injustice. Our brothers in the occupied homeland and the holy places have suffered greatly.

When we came out of Fes, we felt that we had the answer to a question that many people ask about the Arab position. The question was about the mechanism for our action. We believed that we had no problems with any major power in the world.

In 1956, the Zionist movement and Israel concentrated their work on Europe. During the tripartite [Suez] aggression, the United States and the USSR stood at our side. We felt the results of these stands on the ground. The United States stood against its ally. It is clear that, since then, Israel has been concentrating its work on the United States. We in the Arab world may not have been presenting our cause properly over the many years that have passed. This is the first time we have seen any U.S. move in reaction to the tragic circumstances that have been felt even by ordinary people all over the world, including the United States. I said that it was a bold step. I may say that it is the most daring step that any U.S. administration has ever taken. It contains negative aspects in terms of ambiguity. It touches on positive aspects. We must exercise the policy of give and take and see what is presented to us.

We have looked into all the alternatives. Is an international conference within our ability? It is out of our power because it concerns the two superpowers and their acceptance or rejection of it. Does the military alternative exist at present? Except to defend ourselves, is it something that any people would do when faced by threats? In any case, and in all circumstances, I find that this alternative does not exist.

The situation is still the same in Lebanon. The situation in the Arab world is known. Moreover, a battle is being imposed on the Arab nation and is directed against Iraq. Even the Arab material

potential appears shaky to me in one form or another, to the extent that many share the opinion that some of our brothers are no longer maintaining their positions. As a result of all this, many of our major and serious plans have been disrupted. Take for example the question of the popular army in Jordan, and the equipment of the armed forces. In our assessment, in 1 and ½ or 2 years, we will have the chance to assume a better position in terms of self-defense.

These are facts. But what is more important, is that the land is almost devoured. Our kinfolk and brothers in the occupied territories have suffered much. Consequently, we had to deal with these facts in one way or another, and to absolve ourselves in the Arab homeland from the responsibility so no one would hold us responsible for obstructing the achievement of a just, lasting peace.

We and the Palestinians are kinfolk and brothers. The PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people in accordance with the Arab summit resolutions, especially those of 1974. We maintain our position regarding this topic; hence, the discussions on Jordanian-Palestinian relations. Can we give up this issue and let Arab forces, not to say foreign forces, interfere in this issue? Or should we, under such circumstances, endeavor to crystallize a future formula that equally satisfies the ambitions of every Jordanian and Palestinian, in terms of preserving their identity, and benefit from past experience? This could serve as an ideal formula on the road to achieving Arab unity.

This matter concerns the Jordanian and Palestinians before any other side. Camp David has granted Israel the right to interfere in the fate of the land and those living on it. Resolution 242, for example, has been implemented only in terms of withdrawal from Egyptian land, but as to the other part, the picture is different. However, our stand is clear and frank: All the occupied territories should be returned to their owners, as these territories have their own population and sovereignty. We believed that in crystallizing this formula, we would achieve much and narrow the gap between the Arab peace plan and what is being projected in the international arena.

We discussed the question of the political move. We drew our own conclusions as to the visits of the Arab seven-member committee and the visit to Washington by King Hassan II. I visited the United States and promised to convey the outcome of my talks to my brothers in the PLO and in the Arab world. I must stress here that Jordan does not act on behalf of any side. The PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. This is our position, which will not change or alter.

If they think that we can act, the move must be initiated with Palestinian participation and with Arab support. This is how we have moved in past months. We are all aware of what is taking place in the occupied territories and what is threatening them and our kinfolk. Every day there is a new, painful, and extremely serious reality. We met with the PLO leadership and with Mr Yasir 'Arafat. These meetings have continued. Out of conviction, we believed that we must change our methods. We must visit our Arab brothers, be it the Palestinian side alone, or the Jordanian side alone, to seek their opinion about the ideal method. There is external influence, the factor of remoteness from or closeness to the issue, and the factor of direct cognizance or lack of it. This is what the Jordanian-Palestinian accord is based on. I believed that the majority of the Arab world would say: We bless whatever you agree upon.

We reached the phase of agreement. They [the PLO] believed that they must make some moves with a view of acquainting some of their members with what was agreed upon. It appears that there were some obstacles. When the picture was made clear to me, I could proceed no further. I contacted the U.S. side and informed them of the situation. In my opinion, the United States bears the responsibility to a certain extent, indirectly, for this.

For example, I did the impossible to initiate a direct dialogue between the United States and the PLO, but the U.S. position remained unchanged. The PLO was not to be a partner to the negotiations in the first phase. Only the states that were party to the 1967 [war]were proposed. This was an obstacle. On the other hand, there is U.S. credibility. I repeatedly drew their attention to this.

For example, the Israeli forces should have withdrawn from Lebanon before the end of last year, but Israel's insistence on staying did not help. The same can also be said about Israel's rejection of the U.S. initiative, its position on the settlement activity, and its many practices against our brothers under occupation.

Also, one of the obstacles is that the Soviets are not part of this movement. This is out of my control, at any rate. Therefore, they felt that they should adopt a negative stand. I am one of those who believe in the inevitability of U.S.-USSR agreement, but not before it is too late for us, God willing.

At any rate, this is the situation. We were forced to issue a statement giving an idea of what took place. We abide with what is contained in the statement, in light of the present circumstances, with the emphasis that the question is one of a people who have the right to their own national soil, of a people who deserve from us and from the whole world, especially the United States, every concern and support so they can regain their rights. After this long review, the Jordanian monarch was asked about his recent letters to several Arab kings and presidents, about the Moroccan envoy's visit to Amman, and about attempts to resume the Jordanian-Palestinian talks in order to achieve some results. The king said: The contacts exist. All we said was that, if matters continued in this way, we would have to review our situation in view of the existence of real dangers.

[Unidentified AN-NAHAR reporter] It seems that the crisis has reached its climax for all sides; the Jordanians, Palestinians, Americans, and Lebanese. Do you consider the situation urgent for Jordan, especially in light of the reports about the possible resumption of the Jordanian-Palestinian talks?

[Husayn] Our position is clear. We reached a point at which an agreement was signed. [as heard] That agreement was not enforced by us, but by circumstances and Palestinian interests. Then, it was found that it was impossible for our brothers in the PLO to reach this agreement.

[AN-NAHAR] As a result of what?

[Husayn] I cannot tell you the reasons that they gave.

[AN-NAHAR] Did some Arab states, such as Syria, have a role in this?

[Husayn] Perhaps. I cannot answer, but they can.

[AN-NAHAR] Is Jordan not in a hurry?

[Husayn] Jordan is going through indescribable suffering because of the land and the kinfolk on it. Although I consider myself concerned with the cause, the owners of the cause exist.

[AN-NAHAR] What about contacts with King Hassan?

[Husayn] Contacts with King Hassan continue. He is talking with our Palestinian brothers, but our position is clear.

[AN-NAHAR] Will there be a summit or a return to talks with the Palestinians?

[Husayn] I believe that a summit without full preparation — and I may even say without agreement among the parties directly concerned — may not lead to any positive results. This is also perhaps the opinion of some of our brothers in the Arab homeland. Contacts and consultations are going on, of course, and everyone has his responsibilities in one way or another.

[AN-NAHAR] Could we know of any secret between Your Majesty and the Americans?

[Husayn] There are no secrets.

[AN-NAHAR] If things do not go well in Lebanon, could the United States concentrate its efforts on a Jordanian-Palestinian agreement based on Resolution 242?

[Husayn] Jordan will join no negotiation process unless it is on the basis of Palestinian participation and Arab backing. This position is clear.

[AN-NAHAR] Palestinian participation meaning the PLO?

[Husayn] Naturally, meaning the existence of some agreement with the PLO, which is the sole representative here, regardless of whom it assigns as its delegate.

[AN-NAHAR] It was said recently that the USSR was behind the failure of the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement and, consequently, behind the rigid U.S. position toward the Arab states when it called on them to withold recognition of the PLO.

[Husayn] I do not believe this was so.

[AN-NAHAR] What was the reason behind the tough U.S. attitude toward the PLO? Was it to punish the PLO for aborting the dialogue with Jordan?

[Husayn] The United States may not have had an opinion on this subject.

[AN-NAHAR] It is no longer a secret that all those who deal with the subject of the Palestinians leave loopholes in their positions which soon appear as basic problems. The latest was the U.S. statement that the PLO must be dispensed with. It is as if it is so easy to adopt such a position overnight and that all Secretary Shultz has to do is carry it out. Are there any secret Arab positions encouraging the United States to reject the PLO and asking others to reject it?

[Husayn] I am not aware of anything of this kind. The question concerns the PLO and the Palestinians.

[AN-NAHAR] President Jimmy Carter once said that none of the Arab leaders had asked him for an independent Palestinian state.

[Husayn] This is inaccurate. We are trying hard to get all the countries of the world to recognize Palestinian rights on Palestinian national soil. The PLO has been recognized and given the responsibility.

[AN-NAHAR] Has the United States given guarantees to Your Majesty concerning the participation of Israel in talks on the future of the West Bank and Gaza? If so, on what basis? Does the United States only support you, or does it support you and the West Bank and Gaza notables?

[Husayn] The formula presented is the implementation of Resolution 242, which forbids the acquisition of land by force. It was said that Resolution 242 covers the West Bank, Gaza, and the Golan.

[AN-NAHAR] What if Secretary Shultz comes and says: Let us bypass the PLO and let Jordan join the negotiations?

[Husayn] We will not bypass the PLO.

[AN-NAHAR] How does the Untied States currently view the role of Egypt and Jordan in the so-called autonomy negotiations? What role would be left to Egypt concerning the Palestinians if Jordan were given this role?

[Husayn] I believe Egypt has reached the point where it believes that it cannot go any further with this process. It is a party to any collective action to solve the question, and its position is no different from ours.

[AN-NAHAR] Do you expect a return to entrusting the role to Egypt if you insist on your stands? Have you received any assurances from President Mubarak?

[Husayn] I believe that it is difficult for Egypt to continue with this process after what it has gone through.

[AN-NAHAR] On what basis will you agree to resume the talks with the PLO? Has Jordan taken any measures to protect its national security in light of the government statement?

[Husayn] Our contacts with the PLO have not been severed. There are working committees which continue to function.

[AN-NAHAR] Where did the complaint come from then?

[Husayn] There was no complaint actually. There was a reality and a common concept that a certain course might lead us to save the kinfolk and return the land to its people — hence, the crystallization of a certain formula that would help us take action and free our conscience concerning the present and the future. Staying where we are would only enable Israel to achieve its objectives.

[AN-NAHAR] If the United States announced that it was ready to save Lebanon, but Lebanon was unable to cooperate due to Arab pressure; if the United States showed similar readiness to Jordan and the Palestinians, but the Palestinians were not free to act independently; and if the United States then said: We are washing our hands of this friend, and refrained from further action, what would happen?

[Husayn] That would be the greatest catastrophe.

[AN-NAHAR] Would Your Majesty then consider visiting President Reagan?

[Husayn] My present program does not include a visit to the United States. Our present emphasis is on the United States and the view that Lebanon is an American issue. We expect the United States to exert real, effective efforts to end the occupation of Lebanon, which we want to see free and independent, exercising sovereignty over its territory.

[AN-NAHAR] What do Jordan and Lebanon have in common?

[Husayn] There are many things in common. We support Lebanon's sovereignty and independence, and call for the removal of all foreign presence from Lebanese territory.

[AN-NAHAR] If the armed Palestinians withdraw from Lebanese territory, which country, in your opinion, would accept them?

[Husayn] If by this question you want to know if Jordan would receive these brothers, our position, in light of the present circumstances, is clear. We welcome any brother. The Jordanian who holds Jordanian citizenship is free to return to his country. This is permissible under the law. As for the others, there are two considerations: the first consideration being security which, in fact, means Palestinian and Jordanian security; the second consideration is national unity which, if affected, would render us an easy morsel and an easy target for our enemies, who are lying in wait for us. Any action on this subject is governed by these two considerations.

[AN-NAHAR] Therefore, President Amin al-Jumayyil has every right to defend Lebanese security and Lebanese national unity.

[Husayn] May God help President Amin al-Jumayyil. President al-Jumayyil has every right to say what he likes. I will not argue this matter.

[An-NAHAR] What will Jordan do to protect its security?

[Husayn] We will reconsider some measures. We support our people in the occupied territory with all our strength. We will continue to do so with the aim of keeping them on their land. However, naturally we are dealing with the hostile scheme alertly so it may not be implemented at the expense of the Palestinians and their presence on their soil. Therefore, we have to take measures.

[AN-NAHAR] Can you tell us something about these measures?

[Husayn] For example, one of the most important issues we are discussing today is: Will we let Israel have the chance to force people to immigrate or not?

[AN-NAHAR] Does the continuing Gulf war have any effect on the Middle East?

[Husayn] The entire region is a target for big powers and many other sides. It is a strategic area, a crossroad for communications, and contains immense energy resources. It also connects three continents. One of the aims is to dismember the region.

[AN-NAHAR] It is said that the point of difference between Jordan and the PLO is the issue of complete sovereignty. The PLO insists on complete sovereignty. Those who support the authorization of Jordan [to speak on behalf of the Palestinians] support a less than complete sovereignty.

[Husayn] There is no difference. There exists something that might enable us to reach a certain thing. [as heard] Full sovereignty means an independent state. Then, let the PLO come forward and carry out its duties. Jordan does not object. If the PLO can do this, let it, with God's blessings. However, we do not have this. Therefore, we proposed a future relationship, which we should begin now.

[AN-NAHAR] If no withdrawal from Lebanon results at the end of Shultz' trip?

[Husayn] Undoubtedly, this will negatively affect U.S. credibility even further. If the United States is unable to force Israel to withdraw from Lebanon — and Israel has not yet claimed that some Lebanese areas belong to it — how can the United States affect Israel on the issues of the West Bank, Gaza, and the Golan?

[AN-NAHAR] The test for U.S. credibility is Lebanon?

[Husayn] I believe so.

[AN-NAHAR] What about Palestinian and Syrian credibility?

[Husayn] I attended the Fes summit. From what I personally heard, the Syrian brothers support a synchronized withdrawal from Lebanon. If this has changed recently, I am not aware of it.

[AN-NAHAR] What if the issue of neutralizing Lebanon is presented?

[Husayn] Since Lebanon has not proposed this, I cannot answer this question.

[AN-NAHAR] Has the USSR informed Jordan that it will face trouble if it enters negotiations?

[Husayn] The dialogue between us and our Soviet friends has been going on for a long time with extreme frankness. As a result, Jordan enjoys a great amount of credibility in the Soviet Union, much more than others might think. Naturally, the USSR has a negative positionon the U.S. plan and moves. The USSR, perhaps, has the right to take such a stand. I am certain of the inevitable U.S.-USSR agreement at a certain stage. What is important, is our present state, which forces us to move in a certain manner. Again, I say that Jordan moves within the Arab group and at its head. If it is asked to move, it will move with the support and participation of the Palestinians, who are the owners of the cause.

[AN-NAHAR] What is the Arab position toward the Reagan initiative?

[Husayn] As far as I know, the majority of the Arabs support all moves to increase Jordanian-Palestinian cooperation and cohesion. They support all decisions which the Palestinian side takes in coordination with Jordan.

[AN-NAHAR] What about Jordanian-Syrian relations?

[Husayn] There is no change in these relations. This is far from our wish. There are many causes for the deterioration in these relations. The pain I feel is proportional to the size of the hopes which we pinned on these relations at one time. Issues took a different direction. The differences are not personal, but revolve around certain issues. Before the recent operation in Lebanon, at the beginning of the Syrian intervention, we believed that it was possible to prepare the atmosphere for intra-Lebanese and Palestinian-Lebanese dialogues.

There are other differences regarding our stand with Syria, a stand commensurate with Jordan's membership in the Arab League and its status as one of those who ratified the Arab Defense Pact agreement. We have other opinions: We do not agree with them on their political stands in general. They rely on absolute negativism in all their stands. We feel that we should practice the give-and-take policy. Issues are not subject to moods. We had problems in the past, and some of them are being solved. God willing, we hope that the Lebanese situation will help reach this end. [as heard]

[AN-NAHAR] If the Israeli army withdraws to the Al-Awwali River, if the Syrians consider this insufficient and refuse to withdraw from Al-Biqa', and if President al-Jumayyil asks the Arab states to pressure Syria to withdraw from Al-Biqa', will he find Arab support?

[Husayn] We support withdrawal from all the Lebanese territory. Another thing is that we are against the Israeli and Zionist attempt, and the attempts by certain quarters in the region, to internationalize the conflict, because this is a threat to our character, our freedom, our ties to our past, and the future of our generations. To allow the Americans and the Russians to fight on our land is one of Israel's aims.

[AN-NAHAR] After 20 years, issues have turned and reached Your Majesty [as heard]. Do you feel that your responsibility is too great, that there were Arab mistakes?

[Husayn] If there were mistakes, history will judge us. As for the responsibilities, they have not changed.

PLO's Hani al-Hasan Arrives in Amman 1 May

JN020827 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0820 GMT 2 May 83

[Text] Amman, 2 May (INA) — Hani al-Hasan, political adviser of Yasir 'Arafat, and PLO Executive Committee member arrived here last night on a short visit to Jordan. It has been reported that Al-Hasan is carrying a message to King Husayn from Yasir 'Arafat dealing with the latest developments in the Palestinian issue, and with the outcome of the Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue.

AFP: Jordan To Control Movement From West Bank

NC301553 Paris AFP in English 1538 GMT 30 Apr 83

[Text] Amman, April 30 (AFP) — Jordan is planning to introduce stricter controls on movements between the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Jordan, political sources here said today.

A restriction on the present "open door" policy regarding movement across the banks of the Jordan is intended to prevent a mass exodus from the West Bank into Jordan, they said. No date has yet been set for the new controls, but the Palestinian West Bank daily AL-QUDS reported yesterday that they would come into force "next month". They will limit the movement not only of people but also of merchandise between the two banks of the river, the newspaper said.

The measures were in no way to be interpreted as a Jordanian "response" to the breakdown of talks between Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation, the sources said. But it was admitted that they were an indirect consequence of the failure to reach a common policy in the face of Israel's Jewish settlement policies in the occupied territories, as this could lead to a mass exodus of West Bank residents.

Hand in hand with its policy of settlement on the West Bank, Israel, the sources said, has been encouraging Arabs to leave. For example, West Bank students wanting to enroll at Jordanian universities but study at home are no longer allowed home during the nine month academic year. Similar restrictions have been

imposed on people working in Jordan or the Gulf states. Such measures have spread a degree of panic amid such West Bank residents, who fear they may one day not be allowed to return home and who now believe they should already look to the future and settle outside the occupied territories.

The authorities are worried at the prospect of another mass influx into Jordan, where 60 per cent of the population already is Palestinian. But Jordanian political sources said the 800,000-odd West Bank citizens who already hold Jordanian passports will not have them taken away and will have no problems in getting them renewed.

The sources denied that trade controls would be tightened, saying that these were already strict to prevent, as far as possible, "any infiltration of Israeli goods".

Reportage on Mideast Visit by Secretary Shultz

Al-Jumayyil, Al-Wazzan Discuss Visit

NC291233 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1150 GMT 29 Apr 83

[Report by radio reporter Joe Sa'adah from Presidential Palace]

[Text] His Excellency President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil chaired a meeting at noon today to assess the results of yesterday's Lebanese-U.S. talks. The meeting was attended by Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan, Dr Wadi' Haddad, and Ghassan Tuwayni. The meeting was then joined by Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim, who had chaired a meeting of the Higher Liaison Body's Political Committee on behalf of President al-Jumayyil and briefed the ambassadors of the states participating in the multiantional force on yesterday's talks.

Yesterday, George Shultz listened more than talked. He recorded many delicate observations and inquired about many matters. Shultz is expected in Beirut tomorrow for a new round of talks. He might bring with him new Israeli stands and ideas to discuss with the Lebanese officials. He will return to Israel in the evening.

Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim has invited the Arab ambassadors to a meeting at his residence at 1700 today to put them in the picture. The Lebanese officials will continue their Arab contacts to pave the way for reaching a reasonable agreement with Israel. The present phase is difficult and delicate. Lebanese officials believe that the situation requires utmost care and caution because every point of disagreement, whether on basic or less important matters, can impede and indeed obstruct the achievement of an agreement with Israel on the withdrawal of the Israeli forces from Lebanon and bar the way to the withdrawal of non-Lebanese and non-Israeli forces from Lebanon.

Al-Jumayyil Meets Shultz 30 April

NC300913 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 30 Apr 83

[Text] President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil has begun a closed meeting with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, who arrived at B'abda Palace from Israel a short time ago accompanied by U.S. presidential envoy Philip Habib and Ambassador Morris Draper. The meeting was later joined by Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan and Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim. Shultz is scheduled to meet again with Minister Salim before he returns to Israel.

Informed sources have stated that the U.S. secretary of state will return to Lebanon at the beginning of next week before embarking on a tour of a number of European capitals. Shultz will acquaint the Lebanese officials with Israel's replies to questions related to security arrangements, the framework of relations between the two countries, and other pending questions.

Upon his arrival at about 0930 today, Shultz proceeded to B'abda Palace together with Habib, Draper, and U.S. Ambassador Robert Dillon. After reviewing the honor guard, they were received at the palace entrance by palace chief of protocol Hikmat 'Awwad.

Draft Agreement Reviewed

NC301324 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 30 Apr 83

[Text] Chamber of Deputies Speaker Kamil al-As'ad has joined the Lebanese side to the Lebanese-U.S. talks which have been held at the Presidential Palace.

A Lebanese source has stated that at the expanded session of talks, a draft agreement consisting of three parts — the agreement, the explanatory notes, and the annexes — was discussed. During the discussions, Speaker al-As'ad gave Secretary Shultz details on the situation in southern Lebanon.It has been learned that, during the discussion of the clauses of the agreement, Secretary Shultz proposed some compromises, some of which were accepted, while the rest were not.

During the first session of talks, a review was made of the first and second parts of the draft agreement but a few points remained pending. During the afternoon round of talks, the draft annexes will be reviewed. The Lebanese source pointed out that the agreement as a whole will be published and announced upon its ratification and that there will be no secret clauses.

U.S. State Department official spokesman John Hughes pointed out that the United States has not proposed expanding the multinational force's deployment to the south. A Lebanese source said in this respect that Lebanon has not asked for U.S. or multinational forces to be deployed in the south, but that Lebanon will not object to this if this will be a solution to Israel's request.

30 April Talks Reported

NC301302 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 30 Apr 83

[Report by radio reporter Joe Sa'adah at Presidential Palace] [Text] Another day of intensive Lebanese-U.S. talks began early today upon U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz' return from Israel after intensive talks with Israeli officials. Secretary Shultz arrived at 1015 today and immediately began a meeting that lasted 2 hours in the Presidential Palace's garden. The meeting, which included President al-Jumayyil, Secretary Shultz, Minister Salim, and Ambassador Philip Habib, discussed the results Secretary Shultz achieved in Israel.

At 1030, Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan arrived at the Presidential Palace preparatory to convening an expanded session of the talks. Before the session, Al-Wazzan held peripheral discussions with a number of the Lebanese and U.S. delegation members. Prime Minister al-Wazzan compared the next few hours with the hours that usually preceed giving birth and with the hours that preceeded the departure of the Palestinian resistance from Beirut last summer.

At 1200, President al-Jumayyil entered the Cabinet hall before the start of the expanded session of talks. He shook hands with the members of the two delegations and wished them success in achieving positive results. Soon afterward, the second session of talks — the expanded session — began under the chairmanship of Prime Minister al-Wazzan and U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz. It was attended on the Lebanese side by Minister Salim, Dr Haddad, Ambassador Tuwayni, Ambassador Fattal, Brigadier General Hamdan, and Colonel Ruhayyim; on the U.S. side, the talks were attended by Ambassador Habib, Assistant Secretary for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs Veliotes, Ambassadors Dillon and Draper, official State Department spokesman John Hughes, Christopher Ross, General Cooley, Mr Kozak and the members of the U.S. delegation to the tripartite negotiations.

The information brought by the journalists accompanying the U.S. secretary of state indicates that Secretary Shultz was able to obtain some concessions from Israeli officials but it is not yet known exactly on what points he was able to obtain these concessions.

The Lebanese officials continue to stress the principle of liaison committees and reject the principle of joint patrols because it conflicts with Lebanon's sovereignty. The Lebanese officials believe that the Lebanese Army alone will be able to control the security situation in the south after the intensive training it is receiving from the U.S. military experts and after the arrival of the U.S. materiel. The second basic point is the question of relations and trade exchange.

According to Prime Minister al-Wazzan, the Lebanese stand is solid but not intransigent and Lebanon is adhering to its basic rights but it is neither obstinate nor seeking to complicate the negotiations. A Lebanese official felt that there would be progress in the question of the withdrawal of non-Lebanese forces from Lebanon toward the required success as soon as Lebanon reaches an agreement with Israel in this respect.

It remains for us to point out that President al-Jumayyil, at 1230, inspected the press room and the local and foreign journalists who are covering Secretary Shultz' trip. He wished them success, saying: I hope the talks will be successful and we will achieve quick results.

Asked about the progress achieved in the talks and in the negotiations, President al-Jumayyil said: I did not come to make statements but to wish you success. We will furnish you with all the necessary information at the end of the talks.

Talks Continue

NC301538 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 30 Apr 83

[Report by correspondent Joe Sa'adah at Presidential Palace — live]

[Text] The second plenary Lebanese-U.S. session of talks began at 1500 today under the chairmanship of Prime Minister al-Wazzan on the Lebanese side and Secretary of State Shultz on the U.S. side and in the attendance of the two working teams who participated in the morning session. According to the information available at noon today the discussion at the afternoon's session will deal with the third and more important part of the proposed agreement, namely, the supplements [al-malahiq] and the complications they contain.

Secretary Shultz was supposed to leave Beirut for Israel at 1500 today, but the time has been postponed to 1700. It is not known yet whether 1700 will be the final time for Shultz' departure or if the talks will take longer which would mean that the U.S. Secretary will spend tonight in Beirut.

According to the available information the extension of the period for discussion this afternoon means that progress is continuing and that both sides want to complete the discussion of the complete draft agreement today before Secretary Shultz leaves for Israel.

Shultz Remains in Beirut

NC301704 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 30 Apr 83

[Text] It is deduced from the latest reports on the Lebanese-U.S. talks currently taking place in the Presidential Palace that there is great hope of reaching an agreement that would reconcile the basic principles to which Lebanon is adhering and Israel's declared aim, namely, guaranteeing the security of its borders with Lebanon.

U.S. Secretary of State Shultz has decided to stay in Lebanon tonight contrary to what had been initially scheduled, and it is hoped that he will carry to Israel tomorrow an agreement which the Lebanese and U.S. sides accept.

The afternoon's session of talks adjourned at 1745 tonight and will be resumed at a later meeting to continue discussion of the third part of the draft agreement, namely, the supplements.

Al-Wazzan Reports on Talks

NC302034 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 30 Apr 83

[Text] The second round of the Lebanese-U.S. talks ended at the Presidential Palace at 2015 tonight. They will be resumed at 0900 tomorrow Sunday.

Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan spoke about the atmosphere which prevailed at today's talks. He said: It is not strange that it was a long working day today. In fact, today we summed up all the negotiations which have taken place up to now. We reviewed with the U.S. side all the points which must be included in the anticipated agreement. We paused particularly at the points over which there were differences. We discussed them and attempted to reach an agreement on them. He pointed out that it is not important to reach an agreement on them with the U.S. side — although it is naturally useful to have similar views as the U.S. side — but what is important is that the ideas we reach with the U.S. side should be acceptable to all and conducive to the

achievement of an agreement.

Prime Minister al-Wazzan added: We are still in a phase that requires further consultations and discussions whether here or with the Israeli side. I can say that we have achieved some progress and that, as I have said, what is important in the end is that progress be made with those who are directly involved with us. Tomorrow, there will be another meeting during which the discussion of all the points put forward for discussion will be completed so that the final Lebanese stand on all points will be before the U.S. side.

The prime minister was asked: Inasmuch as you will be completing the discussions tomorrow and Secretary Shultz will return to Israel with the final Lebanese stand, do you expect him to return again to Beirut?

Prime Minister al-Wazzan replied: The process of putting things in their perspective finally and reaching an agreement naturally will require a return. We hope that the return will be a final one accompanied by a final stance.

Prime Minister al-Wazzan was asked [as heard]: God willing, [Shultz' shuttle] will not be like Kissinger's shuttle.

He answered: What is important is that we reach good results because matters are in their final stages and we hope that the final stages will be good.

Talks End; Al-Wazzan Statement

NC011316 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 1 May 83

[Text] The Lebanese-U.S. discussions which were resumed at the Presidential Palace in B'abda at 0900 [0700 GMT] today ended this morning. U.S. Secretary George Shultz will leave for Israel. The latter began its discussions by demanding that the United States pledge not to hold a dialogue with the PLO before the latter recognizes the existence of Israel, as it also did during the forces disengagement agreement between Egypt and Israel. Israel said that this was a basic condition for its withdrawal from Lebanon.

Today's meeting was attended on the Lebanese side by Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan, Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim, Ambassador Ghassan Tuwayni, Presidential Adviser for National Security Affairs Dr Wadi' Haddad, Army Commander General Ibrahim Tannus, Ambassador Antoine Fattal and Staff Brigadier General 'Abbas Hamdan. The U.S. side was represented by Secretary Shultz, Ambassador Philip Habib, Ambassador Morris Draper, Nicholas Veliotes, John Hughes and (Raymond Fred) and General Cooley.

Shultz returned to the presidential palace having left it earlier. He was received by President Amin al-Jumayyil in the presence of Minister Salim and Ambassador Philip Habib.

Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan made the following statement to colleague Khalil Fulayhat summing up the results of the Lebanese-American negotiations.

[Begin recording] Today's meeting was a continuation of our review yesterday of all points which were the subject of discussion and which are to be included in the agreement we are striving to achieve to bring about the Israeli withdrawal and consequently the withdrawal of all non-Lebanese forces in Lebanon.

The task, as you have learned from the continuous protracted negotiations, is not as simple as some believe — not even at this stage when we are holding discussions with Mr Shultz. We still believe that the task is not so easy as some believe. However, we and the American side are determined that an agreement must be reached ending the Israeli presence and also ending the presence of all foreign armies in Lebanon. Therefore, we are persevering and following up the efforts to reach acceptable solutions within the limits of what we defined and reiterated in the past — namely the limits of the full Lebanese sovereignty and national dignity.

Today, I can say that we have completed reviewing the Lebanese view on all points. Secretary Shultz is now aware of the full Lebanese position on all issues under discussion. Secretary Shultz will now leave Lebanon to follow up his mission with the Israeli side. We will wait for his return to see the results.

[Question] Regarding the compromise solutions which Secretary Shultz submitted for the pending points in the negotiations, has Lebanon accepted all the U.S. compromise solutions?

[Answer] We are not acknowledginge anything called compromise solutions. There are solutions to certain issues of points. There can absolutely be no compromise solutions to points affecting our sovereignty or national dignity. We have a firm Lebanese stand from which we will not deviate in any way.

[Question] What are your comments on the fall of a shell near the house of the U.S. ambassador at dawn today?

[Answer] A comment on such matters might be useful and it might not be useful. Our past experience has taught us that there are things which might be intentional and others which might be haphazard. Let us look forward and let us continue our path. This is better for us and for our homeland, which we seek to save.

[Question] Yesterday's negotiations assumed a technical character. Will the future discussions with Secretary Shultz be political?

[Answer] The negotiations cannot be divided into technical and political aspects. Each aspect supplements the other because even what is termed as technical is linked with the political stand which sometimes governs the technical side. The issues are interlinked. [end recording]

Foreign Minister Elie Salim spoke saying:

[Begin Recording Salim in English] Well, I would like first to thank Secretary Shultz who is giving so much of his time to reach an agreement. As you should be aware by now, we have a very, very difficult situation. The problems are extremely complicated. There is no magic rod and an effort such as being invested by Secretary Shultz upon the instructions of President Reagan —

such efforts are absolutely essential if we are to make any progress at all. It is quite clear that the discussions that were going on were reaching a stage where they were really almost approaching a stalemate. And therefore to us, it is very essential that Secretary Shultz give it his time and his efforts and I believe [recording interrupted]

Minister Dr Elie Salim said: There are no magic solutions. The efforts being carried out by Secretary Shultz upon the instructions of President Reagan are very essential if we are to make progress. It is clear that the discussions have almost reached the point of stalemate. It was very essential that Secretary Shultz should give them a push and effort. I believe we are making progress. We are making progress in the sense that the difficulties are being pinpointed and action is taken to overcome them in a very serious way by both sides. We might agree or disagree but we are actually making progress in clearly defining the problems in order that we on both sides should clearly pledge to work confidently day and night.

We worked for 15 hours yesterday to resolve these points. If there is a way, then I believe that the efforts of President Reagan and Secretary Shultz are the way. We cannot see any alternative at present to reach an agreement with Israel on this very complicated problem.

Minister Salim was asked about the nature of the differences, which have not yet been resolved. He said: Some secondary points have been resolved and others have been set aside at present so that we can give attention to the basic difficult points. However, the main problems are really difficult and complicated ones. We might need a number of meetings before we can make progress. There are different views and stands and there are fears concerning all points. We hope that these intensive efforts will lead to a solution very soon.

Minister Salim further said: As soon as Lebanon reaches a draft agreement with Israel guaranteeing the withdrawal of the Israeli forces, it will work together with Damascus to prepare a timetable for the withdrawal of the Syrian forces. When discussing the question of the withdrawal with Syria and the PLO, they may demand to be told some details and they may ask questions on some points. This is something natural. I believe that any agreement which Lebanon concludes will be an agreement of which we will proud because it will stipulate the withdrawal of the Israeli forces and all the non-Lebanese forces from Lebanon. All the Arab states will support such an agreement because the alternative is the continued occupation of Lebanon, a matter which the Arab world does not accept. Therefore, I cannot imagine Lebanon accepting any agreement which will not be accepted by any Arab state.

Minister Salim was asked: Has there been any real progress on any of the basic points of differences in the past 20-hour discussions? Salim answered: It is difficult to say that progress has been made on any basic points of difference. What we achieved in the 15-hour discussions yesterday is that Secretary Shultz is now better aware of the Lebanese position. He has also understood the Israeli position. This group will seriously work to find the formula which will fill the gap between the two positions. Several formulas were presented today. We will discuss some of them but the others are absolutely unsuitable. What we accept might not be accepted by Israel. We have prepared several formulas. The Israelis prepared several formulas which were discussed with us. Our formulas will be discussed with the Israelis this afternoon. We hope to receive Shultz on Tuesday to learn the reaction.

Minister Salim was asked if he was pessimistic about the possibility of reaching a solution. He said: Secretary Shultz believes that these issues go beyond pessimism and optimism. We must confront difficult political facts with much realism and confidence. We in Lebanon cannot permit ourselves to be pessimistic or else we will lose our homeland. We must remain optimistic and must work seriously to find our way out of this situation. The road is difficult and not easy and there are several problems. However, I believe we will succeed.

Foreign Minister Salim To Visit Damascus 2 May

NC0i2114 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 1 May 83

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim has stated that he will leave for Damascus tomorrow to brief President Hafiz al-Asad on the developments in the Lebanese-U.S.-Israeli negotiations. This development occurred following a telephone conversation tonight between President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad.

It has been learned that Jean 'Ubayd, President al-Jumayyil's envoy to Syria on several previous occasions, will accompany Minister Salim on his visit to the Syrian capital tomorrow.

UK's Carrington Arrives, Makes Statement

NC301844 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 30 Apr 83

[Text] Former British Foreign Secretary Lord Carrington arrived in Beirut this afternoon in response to an invitation by Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim.

The Former British secretary expressed the hope that the Lebanese Government will succeed in putting things in perspective. Replying to a question he said: I will have proposals after I get acquainted with the developments on the Lebanese issue in order to place it among the priorities when I return to Britain. I carry no British proposals.

Shell Falls Near U.S. Ambassador's House

NC011218 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1157 GMT 1 May 83

[Text] (Raymond Fredi, member of the American side to the current negotiations at the Presidential Palace in Ba'bda, left the palace during [today's] meeting between the two sides to tell reporters that a shell had fallen near the U.S. ambassador's house in Al-Yarzi during the increased security which began last night. (Fredi said the shell fell at 0130 this morning at a distance of 200 meters from the room where Secretary of State George Shultz spent the night. He added: I cannot tell if Mr Shultz was the

target of this shell.

At 1230 today, a U.S. Army lieutenant went to Ba'bda Palace and showed the fragments of the two [as heard] shells to the correspondents and pressmen.

U.S. Officer Identifies Shells

NC011516 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 1 May 83

[Text] A U.S. officer in the multinational force has said that the two shells which early this morning fell near the U.S. ambassador's residence in Al-Yarzi are of Chinese make of the Katyusha type. (Lieutenant Allan Broadhurst) added that they are 122-mm shells, but that they did not cause any casualties or damageto Ambassador Dillon's residence. He said: Had the shells hit the house, they would have caused many casualties and losses.

Secretary Shultz, who was sleeping in the U.S. ambassador's residence when the shells fell, said that he did not know exactly what happened. He added that he was awakened by the explosion of the shells, but that he was not worried. He said that he heard such explosions during World War II.

U.S. State Department spokesman John Hughes has said that it is premature to say that the two shells were aimed at hitting the ambassador's residence or at assassinating Secretary Shultz.

Italy's Colombo Comments on Withdrawal Talks

NC011534 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 1 May 83

[Text] Italian Foreign Minister Emilio Colombo has stated that the failure of the Lebanese-Israeli discussions will lead to a radical change in the position of the multinational force in Beirut and will impel a study of the situation anew.

In an interview with the MONDAY MORNING magazine, which will appear tomorrow, the Italian minister added: Despite the progress made in the withdrawal negotiations, the chances of success must be considered with appropriate realism and caution.

Colombo said that the future of the multinational force must not be affected by the attacks of the terrorists against this force or the U.S. Embassy. He believes that the attack against the embassy proves that tension might increase and that many difficulties might obstruct the peace efforts.

Concerning the situation confronted by the multinational force, Colombo said that he proposed the holding of consultations among the three participating states within the framework of the course of the Lebanese-Israeli discussions. Colombo called for merging the Reagan initiative with the Fes plan saying: This might overcome the obstacles in the way of a settlement to the Middle East crisis.

Resistance Front Claims Credit for Attacks

NC291446 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic 1330 GMT 29 Apr 83

[Excerpts] The forces of the Lebanese National Resistance Front [LNRF] today implemented two new operations against the occupation forces in the south and in the Kharrub region. The operations resulted in the killing and wounding of several Zionist soldiers.

A group of the LNRF interior forces carried out an attack with machineguns and rockets against an enemy patrol as it was passing on the coastal road in Wadi az-Zaynah, north of Sidon, destroying a number of vehicles and killing and wounding an undetermined number of enemy soldiers. Soon afterward, the occupation forces cut off the international highway, threw a military cordon around the area and detained a number of persons while ambulances removed the casualties from the scene of the incident.

This morning a violent explosion occurred in Tyre. It transpired that it was aimed at a position of the occupation forces. Initial reports indicate that the position was destroyed and that several enemy soldiers were killed or wounded. Furthermore, a number of shops and buildings in the area were damaged by the explosion.

The LNRF has claimed responsibility for both operations, emphasizing that all its forces returned safely to base.

The security reports have indicated that an explosion occurred in Sidon early this morning aimed at the International Red Cross headquarters. A Red Cross official, Sumayyah Junblatt, denounced the attack, stressing that the Red Cross' duty is to serve the citizens and that it has no enemies.

Ihdin Radio on Death of Haddad Militia Official

NC011139 Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon in Arabic 1135 GMT 1 May 83

[Text] An explosive device exploded at noon today in the car of Husayn Hamdan, an official of the Sa'd Haddad militias, who was killed instantly.

Palestinians Substitute for Syrians at Roadblock

NC021033 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 2 May 83

[Text] The Voice of Lebanon radio reporter in al-Biqa' has learned that the Syrians manning the roadblock at Qubb Ilyas-Zibdul crossroads have been substituted for by Palestinians belonging to the Fatah organization.

Al-Wazzan Receives New UN Delegate 30 April
NC301935 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 30 Apr 83

[Text] Before leaving for the Presidential Palace, Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan received the new Lebanese delegate to the United Nations, Ambassador Rashid Fakhuri, on the occasion of his assuming his new post.

Lebanon's Al-Jumayyil Telephones Al-Asad

JN012026 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2015 GMT 1 May 83

[Text] Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil had a telephone conversation with President Hafiz al-Asad this evening. Lebanese Foreign Minister Elie Salim will arrive in Damascus tomorrow as President al-Jumayyil's envoy.

Lebanon's Salim, 'Ubayd Visit for Talks

Arrival 2 May

JN020725 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0715 GMT 2 May 83

[Text] Lebanese Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim and Lebanese presidential adviser Jean 'Ubayd arrived in Damascus this morning on a brief visit to Syria, during which they will hold talks with Syrian officials on the latest developments in the Lebanese situation. They were received at the airport by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and a number of Foreign Ministry officials.

Received by Al-Asad

JN021038 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1015 GMT 2 May 83

[Text] In Damascus this morning, President Hafiz al-Asad received Lebanese Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim, who was accompanied by President Amin al-Jumayyil's personal envoy Jean 'Ubayd and Deputy Chief of Staff Brigadier General 'Abbas Hamdan. Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam attended.

IDF Buildup Reported Near Al-Biqa' Valley

JN011946 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1815 GMT 1 May 83

[Text] Reports from Al-Biqa' today said that the Zionist forces of invasion are continuing to mass their armored and mechanized units and to carry out tactical maneuvers in the Al-Biqa' valley along the contact lines with our Syrian units operating within the ADF.

TASS reported from Beirut today that the enemy forces are placing mines on the roads leading to their military objectives [as heard]. It said that a convoy of 30 trucks carrying mines had arrived there. It noted that Israeli planes were flying reconnaissance sorties day and night over Lebanese territories,and that Israel had placed its forces on full alert. TASS noted the recent visits by enemy army commanders to the positions of their units in Lebanon, concluding that premeditated aggression against Syria is imminent after preparations for it have reached their final stages.

Dailies Criticize Shultz Mission, U.S. Role

ATH-THAWRAH Commentary

JN300956 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0345 GMT 30 Apr 83

[Press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The U.S. Schemes Are a Continuation of the Zionist Aggression," ATH-THAWRAH says:

The Arab masses have had sufficient experience in the reality of the U.S. policy and its objectives. These masses also have good memories and cannot be deceived by misleading statements which are issued from time to time to appease them and distract them from the conspiracies that are being concocted against them, and the conspiracies that are directed against the Arab nation's present, future, land, and existence.

The United States has not been capable of providing a single concrete proof of its credibility. The United States sought to deceive the Arabs when it decided to suspend part of a weapons shipment to Israel for some time, while in reality it implemented this decision by sending more sophisticated weapons, cluster, and vacuum bombs which the Zionist aggressors used in their aggression against Lebanon. The United States also continued to use its veto as a weapon to protect Israel from any UN resolution or any deterring measure for its crimes, occupation, and usurpation of Arab territories and rights. Not content with this, the United States concluded an agreement on strategic cooperation with Israel to support the aggression and participate in the Israeli invasion of Lebanon.

The paper adds: These irrefutable facts leave no room for any kind of trust in the United States and in the sincerity of the statements made by U.S. officials. U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz' visit falls within this framework because through this framework, the Arab masses hold the United States responsible for all the destruction and aggression against the Arab land. The Arab masses also hold the United States responsible for the increasing Israeli arrogance and expansionist designs which are encouraged by the U.S. weapons and the continuous U.S. support.

From all these facts, basic reality emerges. The United States protects its interests and position in the region through Israel's aggression and the encouragement of its expansionist designs at the expense of the Arabs' security and future.

Any attempt to conceal this reality will benefit no one because the United States is Israel's partner in the current aggression and in the preparation for its prolongation and escalation.

In another editorial, ATH-THAWRAH says:

Even if George Shultz decides to reside permanently in the region, he will not be capable of producing miracles as the regional and international circumstances which constitute the

background of his tour predict failure and the impossibility ofachieving anything. This was expressed by those accompanying Shultz when they mentioned in their successive statements that Shultz has equal chances of success and failure since the Israeli-Lebanese negotiations have not succeeded in breaking the deadlock.

The Israeli radio's report yesterday that the talks are going in a vicious circle accurately pinpoints the existence of a crisis, and the fatal deadlock reached by the Reagan plan constitutes the starting point for any U.S. move which will be fraught with perils.

It is true that Shultz' tour has generated some political and press interest in the region, but this tour seems to be completelyunable to achieve the U.S. objectives contained in the Israeli dictionary.

Former British Prime Minister James Callaghan has described this tour as an adventure, and the USSR warning to Washington and Tel Aviv will continue to remain in force as long as the United States persists in viewing the Arab-Israeli dispute as a secondary issue within the framework of its broad interests. Thus, by sending Secretary of State Shultz to the region on an emergency mission, the United States has paralyzed itself of its own accord and has defined the strategic ceiling of the scheme of the Israeli pressures.

TISHRIN on Shultz

JN3010S0 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0745 GMT 30 Apr 83

[Text] Damascus, 30 Apr (SANA) — In its main commentary today, TISHRIN affirmed that Israel's security is the common denominator between Israel and the United States, and that providing this security is their joint concern, even at the expense of destroying the Syrian, Lebanese, and Arab security.

Commenting on Shultz' visit to the region, the paper added that the central objective of this visit is to investigate the growing Syrian role, and to discuss means of containing and checking it since achieving this would necessarily simplify the task of guaranteeing Israeli security in Lebanon and in other places. TISHRIN noted that the real objectives of Shultz' visit are certainly not the declared ones. It affirmed that Syria is still not concerned with the visitor or the visit, but with the results of the dangerous mission which has the familiar pureZionist overtures.

The paper added that Syria's concern is to prevent the achievement of any objective of this hostile visit: the pressures to oppress Lebanon and to impose on it arrangements that harm its security and sovereignty in terms of Lebanon's organic and fateful link to Syria's security, and the United States blackmail of Lebanon and the Arabs to impose its hegemony over them through Israeli hegemony.

TISHRIN said that Syria's concern is to bring the dialogue back to the principal issue — the complete Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon without any Israeli security, geographic, political or military gain, without any conditions or mortgage, and without any connection of the issue with other secondary issues that are not related to the Israeli occupation.

The paper said that Syria fully realizes that the background to the concentrated U.S.-Israeli campaigns against Syria's growing role is a clear and open threat of aggression. It affirmed that Syria's concern is to find ways of confronting this threat and to provide the means of defending itself and its people efficiently and appropriately. It said that Syria would be able to foil Shultz' scheme and its objectives. The paper said that Syria has time only for this major task and cannot waste time in futile dialogues with others.

TISHRIN on U.S. Role

JN011258 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0315 GMT 1 May 83

[From the press review]

[Text] Commenting on the aggressive U.S. role against the Arab nation, TISHRIN says:

It has become clear that the invasion of Lebanon was carried out following receipt of a green light from the United States, and that Israel would not have stormed Beirut had it not received the United States' implicit agreement. In addition to this, Israel's designs for partitioning Lebanon, establishing sectarian statelets, and detaching southern Lebanon, have also become clear. Before and after the invasion, Israel worked to ignite fighting between the sons of the one homeland. In fact, the security explosion accompanied even the tour of the U.S. secretary of state. Israel wants Lebanon to be the starting point from where it can attack Syria, because the northern danger — and this is an Israeli expression — is the real danger which threatens it.

TISHRIN adds: Before Shultz' arrival in the region, the Israel-Lebanese negotiations were obstructed by the Zionist side's intransigence, its conditions, and security arrangements, which practically cancel the Lebanese sovereignty and transforms Lebanon into an Israeli protectorate. With the beginning of Shultz' shuttle tour between Lebanon and Israel, the U.S. secretary of state carried new Israeli conditions. Is Washington actually incapable of putting pressure on Israel? Or is it only an Israeli- U.S. maneuver to have Lebanon accept the big concessions, even within the framework of the compromise solution which is being circulated, and consequently, to relinquish its independence, sovereignty, and future, and to put its destiny in Israel's hands? President al-Jumayyil has stressed his refusal to offer the required concessions.

Moreover, his national stand has won the support of the majority of the Lebanese people. Syria has also declared — through its leader Al-Asad — its support for President al-Jumayyil and for all that would lead to the unconditional withdrawal of the invaders from Lebanon. It has also put its forces at the disposal of the legitimate Lebanese authority. Moreover, Syria has explained more than once its commitment to Lebanon's unity and to its sovereignty over the entire Lebanese territory, and expressed its readiness to offer any possible aid which would guarantee this great national objective. Through its initiative to rescue fraternal Lebanon, from the premise of its pan-Arab concern, Syria does not ignore that the security of the two countries is one. The security of the Arabs and Syria is linked to

that of Lebanon. Therefore, there is no place for any relinquishment. Syria has announced its categorical rejection of any Israeli conditions or security arrangements which would undermine Lebanon's sovereignty on its territory, and threaten the security of Syria and the Arab nation.

Hafiz Al-Asad Greets Working Class on 1 May

JN011143 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0655 GMT 1 May 83

[Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad's message to Syrian working class on Labor Day — read by Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah, assistant secretary of the Ba'th Party Regional Command, at 1 May popular rally in Homs — live]

[Excerpts] Brother workers, staunch militants, and all those who build, produce, carry arms, and protect the homeland: Greetings to all of you on 1 May, and my heartfelt contratulations on Labor Day. I greet you on one of the most beloved days in our life, as it is the symbol of the rebellion against injustice, oppression, and exploitation.

Brother workers: Our celebrations of labor Day this year take place while our country and our Arab homeland are facing difficult and complicated circumstances. We are passing through one of the most difficult stages of our national and pan-Arab struggle. We are facing a conspiracy that has been concocted and is being currently implemented by the forces of Zionism and imperialism and their tools, which have betrayed our Arab nation's interests. The future of our nation, and that of its future generations, depend on our present steadfastness.

The scheme that U.S. imperialism is implementing, in cooperation with Zionism and its base, Israel, aims at liquidating the Arab-Israeli dispute in the interest of Israel and imperialism.

The promoters of this scheme have Syria as their target because it is the major obstacle to their scheme, and its steadfastness and insistence on abiding by principles and protecting pan-Arab rights and interests fully disrupts their scheme. That is why every day we hear threats to carry out an aggression against Syria. We also hear reports concerning Israeli preparations to launch this aggression. I tell them in your name that we shall crush capitulation and reject anything that will harm our Arab nation's interests, rights, and dignity. We shall continue to resist until we triumph. Ee are strong because we depend on ourselves, and we have the support of our Arab nation's masses and our friends in the world.

We are determined to remain strong, to safeguard our free will, and to maintain the initiative in our hands. We are strong and free and we shall have the initiative in our hands as long as we work and prepare. We shall remain strong as long as we continue to consolidate our national unity. We shall remain strong as long as we build our economy. We shall continue to be strong as long as our people continue to be determined. We shall remain strong as long as we develop our defense capabilities.]

Shultz Continues Peace Efforts in Mideast

Little Progress Reported

TA291143 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1108 GMT 29 Apr 83

[Report by political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer outside the Foreign Ministry building in Jerusalem — live]

[Text] The motorcade driving the U.S. secretary of state is now waiting outside the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem. Secretary Shultz is now conferring with various senior IDF officers and holding a calm debate about the future relations between the IDF and the Lebanese Army. The crowd of journalists accompanying the secretary of state are currently being briefed in line with the optimistic strategy of the Israeli spokesmen that, in spite of all difficulties, an agreement will ultimately be reached. However, matters look slightly different in the meetings.

In his first meeting with the prime minister this morning, Secretary Shultz said that matters look far more complicated and difficult from Jerusalem and Beirut than from his desk at his office in Washington.

Indeed, matters are difficult. The questions in dispute have not yet been solved. So far, Secretary Shultz has not revealed his positions and, contrary to what had been expected, has not raised U.S. ideas to bridge the gaps. However, from his remarks so far one could learn about the direction he is taking. Among other things, Secretary of State Shultz told the foreign minister a short time ago that time is running against the parties and certainly against Israel because the Soviet Union is increasingly strengthening in the region. Therefore, an agreement must be reached soon to bring about the withdrawal of all the foreign forces from Lebanon.

The problems are known. No progress has been made on the status of Major Haddad's forces. Implications could be drawn from a remark made by Shultz: Do not insist on the title for Major Haddad, the role is more important. However, the Israeli negotiators — the prime minister, the foreign minister, and the defense minister — insist that Haddad should be given a command post within the system of security arrangements in southern Lebanon.

Another topic raised in the meetings with the prime minister and in the Foreign Ministry is the status of the UNIFIL troops. Secretary Shultz again explained the Lebanese position that the purpose of UNIFIL is to protect the Palestinian inhabitants in the camps, and this will apparently also be a condition for the PLO's departure from Lebanon. Therefore, Shultz believes that Israel should agree on this point.

The third topic was the future relations between Israel and Lebanon or, in other words, normalization. Secretary Shultz again expounded on the Lebanese position according to which any normal relations between Israel and Lebanon would adversely affect the latter in the Arab world and would absolutely devastate its economy.

As said, no progress has yet been made, or as Secretary Shultz put it, 1.5 inches progress has been made — that is, very little progress. The talks will continue. Secretary Shultz did not raise any ideas calling for any Cabinet decisions. From the Foreign Ministry he will proceed to luncheon with leaders of the Labor party. In the afternoon he will tour 'En Karem. Tomorrow he will leave for Beirut and will return here in the evening for a private meeting with Defense Minister Moshe Arens.

Meets Labor Party Leaders

TA291521 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 29 Apr 83

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz met today for 3 hours with Labor Party leaders. The visiting secretary refused to talk to correspondents after this meeting. Shim'on Peres told our correspondent Jack Katzenell that he and his colleagues in the Labor Party stressed to the visitor the need for a quick arrangement in Lebanon. The main thing, Peres stressed, is to ensure Israel's northern border by incorporating Haddad's forces in the Lebanese Army. The chairman of the Labor Party told our correspondent that he does not see a real difference between the stand of the opposition and that of the government on the Haddad issue.

Cabinet Session Reviews Talks

TA011703 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 1 May 83

[Report by political correspondent 'Oz Frankel]

[Excerpt] The talks with George Shultz have extended beyond the subject of Lebanon, and they are now also dealing with the relations between the United States and Israel. This was the gist of the prime minister's message at today's weekly Cabinet session. Begin said that it was Shultz himself who said in their talks that it is possible and even necessary to improve bilateral relations. However, in the prime minister's view, the improvement of relations is closely tied to progress in the talks with Lebanon. We should note that Begin did not explicitly mention today Israel's desire to sign memorandums of understanding with the United States during Shultz' visit here.

Energy Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i stated at the session that there should be a limit to Israel's concessions. He said: I hope that we do not abandon vital demands in southern Lebanon in exchange for declarations or F-16's. Health Minister Eli'ezer Shostak asked whether in exchange for a document of understanding with the United States about the PLO, for example, it would not be worth Israel's while to relax its positions in Lebanon. Begin sought to ignore the matter in his answer and, regarding the PLO, said that even if the terrorists leave Lebanon, there are enough people in that country who would be happy to cooperate with the PLO, and that it is premature to talk about its total elimination from Lebanon.

In his political report, Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said that the Lebanese told Shultz that they bear no grudge against Israel, and that the two countries have certain objectives in common. Government officials in Beirut told Shultz that they do not intend

to prosecute Sa'd Haddad; they recognize him as a Lebanese patriot, and propose that he be the deputy commander of the southern brigade for intelligence matters.

It was made clear to the Cabinet ministers today that Israel has not backed down from its demand to appoint Haddad the senior commander in the south. Shamir also said that the hardening in the Lebanese position resulted from the panic that gripped Beirut officials following the explosion at the U.S. Embassy there. Israel has received reports that the Lebanese president himself is coordinating positions with Syrian elements. Shamir directed the ministers' attention to an interview Al-Jumayyil had granted to the French newspaper LE MONDE in which he said that the Lebanese problem could only be solved if Israel withdrew from his country unconditionally.

In winding up the discussion, Begin said that the negotiations are in too early a phase for decisions to be made.

Syrian Visit Reportedly Postponed

TA011511 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 1 May 83

[Text] The English-language news correspondent Alan Ben-'Ami has learned that George Shultz has, for the moment, postponed his trip to Damascus. The Syrians had proposed that he go there tomorrow. U.S. officials have said that Shultz would only go to Syria if great progress was achieved in the negotiations between Israel and Lebanon, and if there was something to talk about with the administration in Damascus.

Meeting With Shamir, Arens

TA011527 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1510 GMT 1 May 83

[Text] A meeting is now being held in the Jerusalem Foreign Ministry between U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz and the Israeli team led by Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and Defense Minister Moshe Arens. Earlier the Cabinet heard a report on the negotiations over the arrangements in Lebanon. Our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer reports from the Foreign Ministry:

[Schiffer — live or recorded] The Cabinet waited for George Shultz. He arrived and now is meeting with the ministers of defense and foreign affairs and the negotiating team for the arrangements in Lebanon. The ministers, according to their testimony, did not leave the Cabinet session with any additional information to that which has been already publicized. Less than an hour ago, Cabinet sources said that they would know today whether the hardening that occurred in the Lebanese position when the U.S. secretary of state came to the area had originated in a desire to obtain something from the Americans, or whether this was a question of a retreat because of fear of the Syrians.

Yitzhaq Shamir, who reported on the negotiations, told his colleagues: We have reports that Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil is coordinating his positions with the Syrians. Secretary Shultz told the Israeli team that Lebanon was interested in reaching an arrangement with Israel. They were no longer insisting on their demand [derishatan] to put Major Sa'd Haddad on trial, and were now prepared to put him in charge of intelligence affairs in the brigade to be established in southern Lebanon, with the rank of brigade deputy commander. This is what U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz told the Israeli team.

At the Cabinet session, the prime minister said the talks with Shultz were covering many issues connected with Israel's relations with the United States, not only Lebanese affairs. To this, Minister Moda'i commented that he was in favor of making positions in the negotiations more flexible if these matters did not damage the security arrangements. However, care should be taken that the compensation should not take the form of U.S. promises at the expense of Israel's security.

And it is true that after the session, Cabinet sources said that it was inconceivable that Israel should receive compensation in mutual relations with the United States in return for concessions in the negotiations with Lebanon. In less than an hour we will know what George Shultz intends, and whether he has succeeded in advancing the arrangement between Israel and Lebanon.

More on Shultz Activities

TA011728 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 1 May 83

[Text] This evening the prime minister met with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, alone. Earlier, Secretary Shultz had reported to the Israeli negotiating team headed by the defense and foreign ministers on his talks in Beirut. Shultz brought several new formulations for the disputed issues between Israel and Lebanon. Our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer reports from the prime minister's office:

[Schiffer — live or recorded] While the meeting between the prime minister and U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz is still going on here in the prime minister's office, the team headed by Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and Defense Minister Moshe Arens continues to discuss the new formulations that Secretary Shultz brought with him from Beirut for several of the issues disputed between the sides. Among other things, these refer to a definition of the roles of the joint patrol teams of the IDF and the Lebanese Army in the security zone.

This afternoon, the U.S. secretary of state reported for an hour on his talks in Beirut. The Lebanese have not made their positions more flexible, but have, as stated, proposed new formulations. Shultz did not agree to discuss two issues in a broad forum: the status of Major Sa'd Haddad and Syria's intentions in Lebanon, in view of the reinforcement of its forces there. He will discuss these tomorrow morning with a restricted team in the prime minister's office in Jerusalem.

On leaving the Foreign Ministry, Shultz said that tomorrow he would devote the entire day to a discussion of the details of the negotiations. On Tuesday, 3 May, he will go to Beirut and on Wednesday, 4 May, if there is genuine progress in the talks, he will go to Damascus. It is impossible to know who will tire out whom in these rounds of talks, because the draft of the agreement

has already been gone over innumerable times because there is no arrangement. At the same time, everyone agrees that Shultz will not be able to leave the area without some sort of agreement.

Earlier at the Cabinet session, Menahem Begin said a broad spectrum of issues involving Israel's relations with the United States was being discussed with Shultz. However, government sources took the trouble to emphasize, after that, that Israel did not intend to make concessions on the arrangements with Lebanon in return for an improvement in relations with the United States. Or, as a government source said, even if we receive the F-16's, they will not be able to pursue terrorists coming from Lebanon. At the Cabinet session Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said that we had reports that Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil was coordinating positions with the Syrians.

This evening the decisionmakers in Jerusalem will know whether the hardening of Lebanon's positions in the talks is tactical or whether the adminisration leaders in Beirut have surrendered to the Syrians.

New Proposal Discussed

TA011913 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 1 May 83

[Text] The prime minister has said that the differences of opinion in the positions of Israel and Lebanon have remained the same. However, the negotiations are continuing, and he hopes that there will be positive results. Mr Begin was speaking this evening after another talk with George Shultz.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman has said that Secretary Shultz and Minister Shamir today examined, clause by clause, a proposal for an agreement with Lebanon containing several new formulations brought by the U.S. secretary of state from his visit to Beirut. The spokesman said that the Israeli delegation would reply to Secretary Shultz about these formulations in a meeting to be held tomorrow morning. He also said that Israel was asking Secretary Shultz one basic question: Would Syria remove its forces if the IDF withdrew?

This evening the U.S. secretary of state spoke with several relatives of soldiers missing from the Lebanon war. Afterward, he said that he had been impressed by their self-confidence and the support given to them by the prime minister and all the citizens of Israel.

Partial Withdrawal Plan Revived

TA020913 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 2 May 83 p 1

[Text] The proposal for a unilateral IDF withdrawal from the Beirut area and the Ash-Shuf Hills to the Al-'Awwali River, north of Sidon, has been raised again in the last few days.

It has been learned that most of those who support this proposal favored such a withdrawal because of the military advantages of shortening the front and easing the burden of the policing tasks the IDF is now carrying out in the Ash-Shuf Hills.

The possibility has been raised of Israel initiating negotiations with Syria with the goal of reaching a partition of Lebanon into regions of rule if the attempts to remove all the foreign forces from Lebanon do not succeed within the next few weeks. One of the claims put forward was that even without an agreement with Syria, the withdrawal to the Al-'Awwali would create a buffer zone that would spread south of the Beirut-Damascus highway, a strip part of which is currently held by soldiers from the multinational force.

Such a strip would cut down on the "disputed areas" between Israel and Syria. Shortening the lines following a withdrawal in Lebanon would lead to an appreciable saving in manpower and the resources now being invested, and would also facilitate the establishment of a sort of "security fence" around the area to remain under Israeli control until an agreement is obtained in the future for the removal of all the foreign forces from Lebanon.

Shultz, Begin Meet Again

TA021113 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 2 May 83

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz will hold another meeting with the prime minister this afternoon. The meeting will also be attended by the ministers of foreign affairs and defense.

This morning, Shultz conferred with the Israeli negotiating team, and they discussed in great detail the security arrangements for southern Lebanon. Moreover, clarifications arrived in Jerusalem this morning from the defense attaches office in Washington reporting that Israel will be able to obtain the knowhow for the production of the Lavi aircraft despite the difficulties presented by the Pentagon.

Schiffer Assesses Talks

TA021144 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1108 GMT 2 May 83

[Text] [Studio announcer] The talks between U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz and the Israeli team to the negotiations are continuing at the Foreign Ministry. I think this is his fifth day in the area and progress in the talks is slow. However, there is nevertheless a small measure of optimism. Shim'on Schiffer at the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem is following up the talks on our behalf. What was concluded in this morning's talks?

[Schiffer] This morning's talks were divided into two sets of talks. In the morning, Shultz conferred with the foreign and defense ministers and discussed the fundamental issues, such as Major Sa'd Haddad's status in the arrangements, and the significance of the Syrian intentions through its military deployment in Lebanon. It can definitely be said that if these negotiations succeed in ensuring a system of reliable security arrangements, it may be said that the Israeli position regarding Major Haddad or the title that will be given him as part of these arrangements will soften.

Immediately after this meeting, the expanded teams to the negotiations gathered at a big hall in the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem. They are currently going over each and every clause of the security arrangements designed for southern Lebanon. There are arguments over almost every detail. Israel wants to have a certain number of daily patrols on Israeli vehicles and it wants to have liaison officers sitting in operations centers in the security zones in Lebanon. The Lebanese are opposed to some of these, and the Americans are seeking a compromise. Many IDF officers are participating in the talks which continue at this moment, and are trying to find the middle road.

Shultz will confer with the prime minister this afternoon and he will be doing this almost daily during his stay here. He will hold private talks with Menahem Begin in an attempt to check the limit of Israel's concessions or to see about concluding problems which he cannot wrap up with the expanded teams.

Here are some other details about a report discussed in the media this morning. We learned today that the Pentagon and the U.S. secretary of defense have been obstructing the transfer of know-how about the Lavi. A short time ago an authoritative U.S. source in the U.S. secretary of state's entourage told me that this time the journalistic tale did not manage to catch up with events since clarifications were received from Washington this morning which remove these obstacles and Israel will definitely be able to receive all the information it was promised by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz. The clarifications came through two channels: both through the military attache in Washington which reported to Defense Minister Arens that the obstacles had been removed, and through U.S. sources in the entourage of Secretary Shultz who apparently handled this affair personally from Jerusalem. All the above informed the pertinent elements that Israel will be able to receive all the information promised it by the U.S. secretary of state.

[Announcer] We will return to that issue with our military correspondent. Perhaps another question: At the beginning of our conversation I described the talks between Secretary Shultz and the Israeli team as being held under the light of cautious optimism. Do you agree with this very cautious assessment?

[Schiffer] None of the participants here doubt that Shultz will leave the area without carrying an agreement or at least the principles of an agreement between Israel and Lebanon, leaving the last details to the negotiators in the talks at Netanya and Khaldah. It is clear to everybody here that Shultz will not leave the area without an agreement. Meanwhile, he will spend today in Jerusalem. He will depart for talks in Beirut tomorrow to try to bridge the gaps remaining in these negotiations. He may leave for Damascus this week if it becomes clear that an arrangement between Israel and Lebanon is imminent, and it is possible to discuss their own withdrawal with the Syrians. At the beginning of next week, the U.S. secretary is scheduled to depart from Paris and he insists on going there. He may return to the area if an agreement is not reached by then.

[Announcer] Still, we may say that as long as he is determined to hold the talks and to conclude matters there prevails a certain measure of optimism.

'Memorandum of Understanding' With U.S. Prepared

TA010544 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 1 May 83

[Excerpt] A memorandum of understanding with the United States is being prepared in Jerusalem. Our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer has learned that Israel wants this document to be signed before the withdrawal from Lebanon, but does not view it is a condition for withdrawal. The document is intended to endorse understandings reached between the two countries at the time, including a U.S. refusal to hold contacts with the PLO before it recognizes Israel's right of existence and UN resolutions.

Other matters which will be raised in the document: Prior consultations, the raising of political programs, UN initiatives, and reactions toward the Soviet Union. Our correspondent mentions that these understandings were reached after the disengagement agreements between Israel and Egypt.

Weinberger Reportedly Hindered Lavi Transfer

TA020529 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 2 May 83

[Excerpts] U.S. Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger hindered the transfer of knowhow to Israel about the Lavi aircraft project. This knowhow had been promised by Secretary of State George Shultz to Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Arens. However, upon Shultz' departure for the Middle East, Weinberger instructed U.S. companies to hold the data about the wings system and the flight control.

Our military correspondent Shmu'el Tal has learned from the Defense Ministry that it is yet unaware of the reason why Weinberger sought to prevent this information from reaching Israel. Up to now, Israel has only received information of very little value from the United States.

Weinberger Moves Criticized

TA020752 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 2 May 83 pp 1, 2

[Report by Ze'ev Schiff]

[Text] There is fury and anger in the ministries of defense and foreign affairs now that it has emerged that Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger had torpedoed the announcement by the U.S. secretary of state that the United States would give Israel the modern technological information it needs to develop the Lavi aircraft.

After Shultz left for the Middle East, Weinberger ordered U.S. firms to give Israel only unimportant information, thus overturning the original positive decision. At the same time, it has been learned that the secretary of defense has recently made another negative move against Israel by ordering the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, who is now touring the Middle East, not to visit Israel and to concentrate only on Arab countries, including Jordan, Lebanon, and Egypt.

Weinberger's moves shocked the heads of the Defense and Foreign Ministries and sharp comments have been heard that Weinberger intends to "bring Israel to its knees," and that these moves make U.S. promises appear doubtful, just at a time when the negotiations with Lebanon with U.S. mediation are at their peak. It has also been said that Weinberger's move harms not only Israel, but also Secretary of State Shultz, who himself signed the letter reporting the release of the technological know-how for the Lavi aircraft.

It turns out that on the eve of Independence Day, Ambassador Lewis went for a meeting with Defense Minister Arens and brought with him a letter Secretary of State Shultz had written about the release of the knowhow. The letter says, among other things, that the decision was also made with Weinberger's agreement. The decision was made at a meeting of the National Security Council and from this it follows that it was made with the agreement of President Reagan.

Despite the fact that an official announcement about this was made to Israel, Secretary Weinberger took steps designed to make the decision void of content. He addressed himself to the companies who have the knowhow and with whom Israel has business ties and redefined what was permissable and what was forbidden to transfer to Israel. That new directive, according to Israeli representatives in Israel and in the United States, in fact negated the original positive decision.

In the meantime, it has also been learned that Weinberger has made a move regarded by Israel as a negative, demonstrative step against it. It turns out that Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General John Vessey, who is on a visit to the Middle East, was given a directive not to visit Israel. Instead of this, he is concentrating on visiting Arab countries.

This matter has already been brought up in a talk between Defense Minister Arens and U.S. Secretary of State Shultz. Arens asked Shultz how the Arabs would accept the fact that the chairman of the Joint Chiefs had been prevented from visiting Israel. It emerges that Shultz was also surprised at the two moves by his colleague Weinberger, and his aides regard these as moves that could interfere with his mediation attempts.

Previously Missing POW's Now Reported Alive

TA011818 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 1 May 83

[Text] The PLO has said that the terrorist organization PFLP-GC has handed over a film showing two Israeli prisoners who have not been seen before. The film is 50 minutes long. PLO Spokesman Abu Mayzar has said that from the film it can be seen that the two prisoners are in good condition.

Foreign correspondents in Damascus report that Abu Mayzar also said that the two prisoners gave mediator Herbert Amry, Chancellor Kreisky's bureau chief, letters for their families. He said that a representative of the Red Cross in Syria would meet with the two prisoners the day after tomorrow, 3 May. This refers to prisoners about whom it was not previously known if they were alive or dead.

Security sources in Israel have confirmed to our correspondent Mikha Friedman that the two prisoners held by Ahmad Jibril's organization had shown signs of life and they had been allowed to speak on Austrian television. They refused to give any further details.

Syria Said Only Rebuilding Positions in Al-Biqa'

TA011146 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 1 May 83

[Text] Radio and newspaper reports from Lebanon say the Syrians are bringing reinforcement into the Al-Biqa' valley and cutting strategic roads overlooking the Beirut-Damascus highway. Military sources in Israel say there have been no major Syrian troop reinforcements, and that the Syrians have only been carrying out routine work to improve their positions after the long winter.

The sources confirmed that the Russians are continuing to send military equipment to Syria by air and sea, but say its a process that has been underway since the Lebanese war ended. There are still no firm indications whether the Syrians are intending any offensive action or simply preparing themselves for any eventuality.

More on Al-Biqa' Situation

TA291019 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 29 Apr 83 p 2

[Excerpts] The Phalangists' radio has reported that the Syrian and Israeli reinforcements in the Al-Biqa' are continuing. The radio added that 700 Syrian soldiers equipped with missiles and heavy cannons entered the Al-Hawara-Al-Masna' axis and that bulldozers continued to dig trenches in the area of (Zabbud) village. It further reported that PLO forces from Tunisia, Cyprus, and Yemen had returned to the Al-Biqa'.

Damascus radio announced yesterday evening that Syrian forces are reinforcing their Al-Biqa' fortifications to forestall an attack against Syria. Observers think that the battle will not be restricted to the Al-Biqa', the radio said. "The enemy's goal is to delay the withdrawal of our forces from Lebanon and to force Lebanon to accept the existing situation and submit to Zionism's terms and demands. The enemy's planes also flew over Lebanon yesterday morning," the radio said.

Our correspondent Yehezqel Hame'iri adds that Lebanese villagers who came from the Syria-controlled areas of Lebanon yesterday told of a mass exodus of villagers to areas deep inside the Syrian-controlled territory because they fear there will be a war with Israel.

The villagers reported considerable panic in the villages near the cease-fire line between Israel and Syria in the Al-Biqa'. They said the Syrians had confiscated houses on the frontlines and were now digging in in them, which was increasing fears.

Official Carrying Message to Romania's Ceausescu
TA020706 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 0625 GMT 2 May 83

[Text] Ben-Gurion Airport, 2 May (ITIM) — The director general of the prime minister's office, Mr Matityahu Shmuelevitz, left for Romania this morning with a message for President Ceausescu as part of the continuing dialogue between Israel and Romania.

A high-ranking official was visiting Israel last week on behalf of President Ceausescu, and Mr Begin and the Romanian leader maintain close contacts, particularly on the issue of the Lebanon crisis.

Mr Shmuelevitz is carrying a message for the Romanian president in which, among other things, Mr Begin thanks him for the invitation to visit Romania, but explains that he does not plan to visit there for the time being, and as long as Mr Ceausescu does not reciprocate the visit paid by the Israeli prime minister to Bucharest.

Other issues that Mr Shmuelevitz will raise in the talks in Romania are the education ransom that has to be paid by people seeking to emigrate from Romania — including those emigrating to Israel — bilateral matters, and particularly the Middle East question.

ETHIOPIA

Mengistu Delivers May Day Speech in Addis Ababa

EA012151 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 0639 GMT 1 May 83

[Speech by Chairman Mengistu Haile-Mariam, on the occasion of May Day, at Revolution Square in Addis Ababa — live]

[Excerpt] Though our main focus is on economic and social development, this does not mean that we have reached a stage where we are free from war. In this respect, the reactionary regime of Somalia, which invaded our country in an arrogant way after years of preparation and which tried to exploit a situation that it considered favorable, is now reviving its efforts after having initially been rapidly defeated. The reactionary ruling class of Somalia has boasted at various international and African forums that it is revolutionary and that it has stood for freedom and justice for the last 20 years. Besides throwing its people, who already suffer from backwardness and natural disasters, into a pit from which they cannot easily emerge, by being an instrument of imperialism and selling the land, right, dignity, and freedom of the Somali masses, oppressing them and sucking their blood, the regime is becoming a major obstacle to peace in the Horn of Africa, particularly to the Ethiopian revolution, and once more covets the land of our dear country by arming itself with weapons of destruction which it receives from U.S. imperialism.

Even though our revolutionary army has taught it various lessons in order to stop its aggression, it is unwilling to halt its actions and is again provoking us, as you have heard.

We have repeatedly told the world community that we desire peace, but we will not view this lightly, as we have never accepted being attacked. We would again like to remind the attacking side and its masters who arm and encourage it that they will be responsible for the destruction caused by the reactionary war instigated by the invader, who can never achieve his aims. [applause]

We want imperialism and its reactionary cliques to realize that our people's strong army will never be lax and that our zeal will never cool. [applause] We again remind them that, just like yesterday, we will not deviate today or tomorrow from our pledge of revolutionary Ethiopia or death. [applause]

Defending our security and building a just and prosperous society is our unwavering aim which no force can stop and which is founded on the sacrifices of the many heroes of this country.

We condemn all those working for their own advantage who oppose revolutionary unity in the name of the rights of national minorities. We will fight them until the end. [applause] Basically and in principle, we confirm our stand favoring an end to the oppression of national groups by any reactionary regime in the name of unity and for their right to decide their fate through secession or through democratic unity. [applause]

Imperialists, reactionaries and their cohorts are spreading their false propaganda by making the antirevolutionary activities of those reactionaries who work under the guise of nationalism look like a movement opposing a centralization imposed on them. If the question is observed carefully, it is clear that this is not an activity opposing or supporting centralization. It is obvious that the question is one of supporting or opposing revolutionary activities aimed at freeing workers of all nationalities from any oppression or exploitation. It should not surprise us that the choice of pretenders is that of opposition. What is surprising is their attempt to present national groups as wishing to secede at any time and from any system.

As all friends or enemies know, our strategic goal, in view of our current situation, is unity. No one should doubt that our struggle is not for the division of peoples. Our strategic slogan, "Workers of the world unite," is sufficient evidence of this. This is our basic stand and we will not retreat from fighting any distortion which may come about in its implementation.

Even though numerous tasks necessary for laying the foundations of a new socialist society have been accomplished, much still needs to be done before we reach our goal. We cannot deny that there are weaknesses in our organizations, institutions and in other areas. There are many obstacles which hinder the growth of production. Office hours are not adhered to. The pursuit of personal benefit and fraud continue. While some strive day and night to transform their country, others have not changed. Moreover, situations where rightist inclinations can emerge among those who have not rid themselves of reactionary ideology are becoming evident. This message is for those of us, the working class, the peasants and the intellectuals, who say we stand for the revolution. There are many deployed in the development and administrative fields who forget that they were educated by the efforts of the public for the good of the country and its people, and instead think only of their personal benefit.

Compatriots, there is drought in some regions of our country. This has brought famine among some of our people in the villages. The situation tests our goal. We started off by saying that we will at least satisfy our food needs. The situation was favorable. Our desires have not been fully realized. Our drought is a drought of work, a drought of willingness and creativity, science and technology. Even given this situation, it is unacceptable that we cannot at least satisfy our food needs. It is a mystery that we are starving when we have a land which could even produce a surplus for other countries and which has sufficient manpower. We must get out of this shameful situation. [applause]

While we are trying to better ourselves, our enemies await our downfall. We must be sure not to give our enemies an opportunity to carry out their plans. We have been able to thwart all attacks because of the reliability of our defense force. We must realize that all our plans which seek to fulfill our desire for development should not only have progress in mind, but should confirm our ability to overcome obstacles created by our enemies. If we are not sure of retaining what we have, we will find it difficult to make sure that the future is ours.

In order to fulfill our wishes for a better life, a guarantee of our security is essential. Our enemies cannot be said to be the kind who will not provoke us if they are not provoked, so it is our duty to always be ready to defend our security. As we have seen, our

enemies will never restrain themselves in undermining our good efforts. They have been stopped by our determined will to defend ourselves and not through their sympathy. We must realize that, even in the future, should we weaken in the defense of our revolution, we will be open to attack. As a result, we should never view our aim to build a just society separately from that of defending our security.

Dear compatriots. It is impossible to be lax in the strengthening of our defense force. No revolution has succeeded by being lax in this area. This does not mean we like war. Every country has the right to defend itself from any attack. It is not a (?mistake) to make use of this right. It is a basic duty to defend the borders of the motherland and the revolution. A socialist defense force which takes this responsibility must be based on the desires of the workers and peasants in its aim and action. In this way, its ability to defeat reactionary forces is very strong.

The national military service program is not at all like the distorted meanings given it by those who do not wish our revolution well and who have no public concern. Its detailed application will be issued in a proclamation. Basically, every Ethiopian between the ages of 18 and 50 will participate in national military service and the service will recruit citizens between the ages of 18 and 30. Those fulfilling the recruitment requirements will be given military training for 6 months and will then be sent to the field to serve for 2 years. While in training and service, all basic needs, such as food, housing, medical services and allowances, will be provided. On returning from service, rights of priority in previous jobs and salary levels will be protected. Furthermore, servicemen will be given priority in all social services, including the medical service, education, housing, and transport. Their progress and contribution to the country's social, economic, administrative and political activities will be more extensive than others.

This is so because they are chosen citizens who have fulfilled their obligations to their country and countrymen. [applause] Those nationals who have completed their military service will be on standby until the age of 50, to be deployed when the need arises. When called, if the need arises, their employers will, according to the law, pay them their salaries; their pensions and other benefits will be protected. In addition, all necessary care will be given to the dependents of any national who, in the course of military duty, becomes injured or is martyred. [applause] Military commissariats have been established throughout the country in order to successfully carry out the necessary registration and training programs for military service. The unlimited participation of public organizations, in particular, is very important for the success of our general efforts. There has never been a time when our revolutionary plans have been successful without the participation of the masses.

Zambian Leader Arrives for ECA Session 27 April

MB280911 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 28 Apr 83

[Text] President Kaunda arrived in Addis Ababa yesterday to a jubilant welcome to attend a 4-day Economic Commission for Africa [ECA] silver jubilee anniversary celebration that started yesterday. The Ethiopian head of state, Lieutenant Colonel Mengistu Haile Mariam, and ECA Executive Secretary, (Adebayo Adedeji), were at the airport to receive Dr Kaunda. Zambian residents in Ehtiopia were also at the Addis Ababa international airport to welcome the president and broke into the "Unity Kahuna Kaunda" song when the president left the aircraft.

Dr Kaunda was later given a hero's welcome when he arrived at Africa Hall, where the celebrations opened yesterday afternoon. The regional commentator said the loudest applause which Dr Kaunda received when he arrived at the Africa Hall told of the great respect he commands as a distinguished world leader. The president is scheduled to address the ECA today.

Tigre Liberation Front on Relief Workers

NC281038 Paris AFP in English 0920 GMT 28 Apr 83

[Text] Khartoum, April 28 (AFP) — The separatist Tigrean Peoples Liberation Front today acknowledged capturing eight foreigners from the Ethiopian town of Korem, but denied that they were hostages or prisoners of war.

(Relief agency sources in London said that 10 people had been seized by the TPLF during their attack on Korem on Wednesday last week. They were four Britons, two Irish nurses, one Italian and one Ethiopian nun, an Indian doctor and an American priest.)

TPLF representative Yamani Kidani said that the group of foreigners had been "invited by the TPLF to study the situation of millions of Tigreans sufering from drought."

The relief workers among the group of foreigners "are now touring Tigre and will come out of the territory any time," Mr Kidani said.

He confirmed that four of the eight "guests" were Britons working for the Save the Children Fund, but said he did not know the nationalities or organisations of the others.

Korem is in Ethiopia's Wollo Province, about 150 km (95 miles) south of the town of Makalle, which the Tigreans regard as their capital.

The TPLF representative said the foreigners were safe. They were touring the central and southern parts of Tigre "which are severely affected by drought while the Ethiopian Government could not channel aid (there) because 85 per cent of Tigre, with 90 percent of the population, is under the effective administration of the TPLF."

Separatist guerrillas took control of Korem on April 21 after 13 hours of fighting, Mr Kidani said. During the battle Tigrean forces killed 270 Ethiopian troops, including District Governor Getachew Yebel, and captured 230 others, he said.

They held the town for three days and supplied Korem's inhabitants with 2,000 blankets and large quantities of food.

Mr Kidani said that on the same day TPLF guerrillas also attacked Adwa, the second town in Tigre after a three-hour battle.

He claimed that the Ethiopians were holding the families of 10,000 men hostage in "reception centres" in central and southern Tigre while their young men were given military training in a small town called Kombelcha.

SOMALIA

President Addresses Mogadishu Workers Rally

EA302326 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali 1700 GMT 30 Apr 83

[Excerpt] Challe Mohamed Siad Barre, secretary general of the SRSP and president of the Somali Democratic Republic [SDR], called on all Somali workers and on members of progressive forces to give top priority to defending the country, to turn their attention to the eradication of qat and to fight tribalism, which has divided the unity of the Somali nation. Challe Siad was addressing a huge rally at the tomb of the unknown soldiers in Mogadishu. Members of the seven affiliated Somali workers unions, representatives of various organizations of the Somali nation and delegates from the General Federation of Somali Trade Unions, who are in Mogadishu to attend the general federation's second congress, participated in the rally, as did representatives of the Somali communities, members of the Armed Forces, students, intellectuals, women's organizations, merchants and members of the general public living in and around the Benadir region.

He said that it is vital for workers and other forces in Somali society to turn their attention to the needs of the Somali nation. He also said that workers and other members of the Somali community should encourage unity among the youth of Somalia and should instill a sense of patriotism in all young people. SRSP Secretary General Siad praised the Somali masses for their unswerving support of the decree banning the importation, sale, cultivation, and chewing of qat in the SDR. Challe Siad said that qat not only cripples the Somali economy, but is also responsible for tribalism, nepotism, regionalism, black-marketeering, illegal currency trafficking, embezzlement of public funds, inflation, family quarrels, juvenile delinquency, immorality, and divorce. Challe Siad added that qat hinders the implementation of government development projects and is the Somali nation's number one enemy.

Siad said that tribalism is a tool used by the enemies of the Somali nation, the cause of the fragmentation of Somali society, a carrier of disease and illiteracy, and, at the same time, the screen hiding those who wish to destroy the prosperity of the community. Challe Siad went on to urge the Somali community to wage a relentless war to eradicate black-marketeering and to collectively apprehend parasites and rumormongers. Finally, Challe Mohamed Siad Barre, secretary general of the SRSP and president of the SDR, sent congratulations and greetings to Somali workers and their families, who are celebrating the great occasion of May Day, international workers day, which will be celebrated tomorrow.

The event, which was attended by Challe Major General Hussein Kulmie Afrah, second vice president of the SDR, by members of the SRSP Central Committee and the National People's Assembly, as well as by party and government officials, was addressed earlier by Challe Mahmud (Shireh) Ismail of the General Federation of Somali Trade Unions. The workers and representatives of various organizations who participated in the rally marched through the main streets of Mogadishu carrying signs, placards, branches and flags.

SSDF Claims Responsibility for Explosion

NC291738 Paris AFP in English 1714 GMT 29 Apr 83

[Text] Nairobi, April 29 (AFP) — The Ethiopian-based opposition Somali Salvation Democratic Front (SSDF) today claimed responsibility for an explosion which caused a power failure in the Somali capital Mogadishu yesterday, but Somali authorities said that the power failure was caused by a mechanical breakdown.

In a communique sent to the AFP office here, the front said that it had "successfully undertaken a sabotage operation against the main power station in Mogadishu yesterday and the fire from the explosion had spread to other parts of the city, causing serious damage to buildings and property."

But Radio Mogadishu, monitored here, yesterday attributed the explosion to "a short circuiting" on a power line "causing the fire to spread along the line and moving towards the transformer at the main Mogadishu station."

The radio quoted National Electricity Agency General Manager Abdi Mire Nur as saying that the fire was put out shortly after it broke out with the help of the city's fire brigade, electricity agency workers and security forces. Normal power supply to the whole city, which had been cut off as a precautionary step, was resumed after three hours, Mr Nur added.

PRC Friendship Delegation Arrives for 10-Day Visit

EA012251 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali 1700 GMT 1 May 83

[Excerpt] An international PRC friendship delegation led by the deputy chairman of the organization, Challe (Liu Chan Yeng) arrived in the Somali Democratic Republic [SDR] today for a 10-day official visit to Somalia.

The deputy chairman told reporters at the airport VIP lounge that the PRC delegation's visit will strengthen the existing deep-rooted brotherly relations between the two countries and peoples of the SDR and PRC. He added that while in Somalia they will hold bilateral talks with senior SDR officials on how the two countries can collaborate in the economic, social, cultural and educational fields.

BURUNDI

SDAR President Abdelaziz Arrives 28 April

AB290806 Paris AFP in English 0716 GMT 29 Apr 83

[Text] Bujumbura, Burundi, April 29 (AFP) — Mohamed Abdelaziz, president of the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic, arrived here Thursday for a two-day visit, during which he will have talks with President Jean-Baptiste Bagaza. He will then go on to Congo.

CAMEROON

Algerian Prime Minister Arrives in Yaounde

AB300904 Yaounde Domestic Service in French 0600 GMT 30 Apr 83

[Excerpt] Algerian Prime Minister Mohamed Ben Ahmed Abdelghani arrived in Yaounde yesterday for a 48-hour visit to our country. After being given a dinner party last night by the Cameroonian prime minister, Mr Abdelghani will be received in audience this morning at 1000 by the president of the republic, His Excellency Paul Biya.

Meets With Biya

AB301455 Yaounde Domestic Service in English 1400 GMT 30 Apr 83

[Text] President Paul Biya this morning received in audience the Algerian prime minister, Mohamed Ben Abdelghani, at the State House in Yaounde. Speaking to newsmen after their discussions, the Algerian prime minister said he had talks with President Paul Biya on the reinforcement of bilateral relations between Algeria and Cameroon. Mr Abdelghani said he briefed President Paul Biya on Algeria's point of view on the current political developments in Africa and the forthcoming summit meeting of the OAU.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Judiciary Says Dissidents Defended Themselves

AB272028 Paris AFP in French 1729 GMT 27 Apr 83

[Text] Bangui, 27 Apr (AFP) — Abel Goumba and Patrice Endjimoungou, the two leaders of the Ubangi Patriotic Front — Labor Party (FPO-PT), who were sentenced last Thursday to 5 years in prison for intelligence work done in collaboration with a foreign power, were given every right to defend themselves, the CAR judiciary asserted in Bangui on Wednesday.

Messrs Goumba and Endjimoungou, who are, respectively, chairman and secretary general of the FPO-PT's external relations, "made statements themselves in court concerning legal charges brought against them" at a public sitting of the Special Tribunal of the Republic and in the presence of an Amnesty International observer, Robert Durst, a lawyer from Paris, this source said. They were defended by two CAR lawyers, Messrs Hirch and Golilogue, and a French lawyer, Frederic Wehl (from Paris).

The accused "used the cover of their moral authority to issue the articles and publications in question," the judicial authorities added, a reference to the charges made against them for participating in a group which called upon citizens to disobey government laws, rules and orders and for disseminating propaganda that tended to inspire citizens to despise certain categories of people.

In addition to the 5-year jail sentence, the accused were fined 2 million CFA francs and have been deprived of their civic rights, including the right to either vote or be elected to office for a period of 10 years.

Messrs Goumba and Endjimoungou were arrested by the police on 8 August 1982, when Mr Goumba was preparing to return to Paris via Brazzaville. Several documents addressed to Pierre Kalk, former personal under secretary to Mr Goumba, who was also vice president of the government from 1959 to 1960, were seized. In other letters, Mr Goumba considered that [words indistinct] the situation.

In addition, in spite of the political truce decreed by the government, "E ZINGO" ("LET'S WAKE UP"), the information organ of Mr Goumba's party, circulated clandestinely.

CHAD

Habre, Nigerian Envoy Hold Lengthy Talks

AB301515 Paris AFP in French 1410 GMT 30 Apr 83

[Text] Ndjamena, 30 Apr (AFP) — Informed sources in Ndjamena said this morning that Chadian head of state Hissein Habre yesterday granted a long audience to Zana Moussa [name as received], Nigeria's ambassador to Chad.

Although no details were given on their discussion, which was considered "unusually long" within Chadian political circles, observers believed it centered around an examination of the situation created by the recent border incidents between Nigerian and Chadian units in the Lake Chad region.

It will be recalled that the authorities in Ndjamena have not yet officially reacted to these clashes, in which some Chadians allegedly died.

Togolese Foreign Minister Pays 'Short Visit'

AB301532 Paris AFP in French 1449 GMT 30 Apr 83

[Text] Ndjamena, 30 Apr (AFP) — Togolese Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Anani Kuma Akakpo-Ahianyo paid a short visit to Ndjamena this morning, during which he delivered a message to President Hissein Habre from his Togolese counterpart, General Gnassingbe Eyadema.

Following the audience, the Togolese foreign affairs minister told the press that this visit falls within the framework of a permanent

exchange of views as well as the bilateral relations existing between Togo and Chad.

Questioned on the recent border clashes between the armed forces of the two countries in the Lake Chad area, Mr Akakpo-Ahianyo expressed "the hope" of seeing this problem "rapidly settled" in an amicable way by the parties involved.

Anti-Habre Commando Units in South Commended

AB292125 Bardai Chadian National Radio (Anti-Habre) in French 1820 GMT 29 Apr 83

[Chadian Transitional National Union Government's [GUNT] message to the commando units of the National Liberation Army [ANL] operating in southern Chad, date and place of issue not given — read by announcer]

[Text] Following the spectacular acts of the commando units of the National Liberation Army [words indistinct] resulting in their control over the Maro, Bodo and Gore, the Presidency of the GUNT makes a point of commending the valiant freedom fighters. In spite of the alliance between the French and the FAN forces, the violation of Chadian territory by the barracuda [French intervention troops], which seeks to impose an (?unnecessary) war, you of the ANL have successfully organized yourselves in order to carry out an anti-imperialist struggle. The action which you launched was totally consistent with any revolutionary struggle. Your action was (?certainly sensational). Concerning the establishment of terrorist committees in southern Chad to attack the people, the GUNT appeals to all patriots to unite and check these ignoble, criminal designs. The GUNT also issues a strong warning to those militarist adventurers who want to make the people follow them. The revolutionary people will triumph.

Bardai on French Support for Habre Regime

AB300656 Bardai Chadian National Radio (Anti-Habre) in French 1820 GMT 29 Apr 83

[Text] According to our permanent correspondent in Ndjamena, the mission of the French minister delegate for cooperation and development in Chad falls within the framework of France's imperialist strategy aimed at keeping alive the reactionary clique and the jailer of Francoise Claustre so that it will continue its diabolical repressive action against the struggling Chadian people. Our permanent correspondent notes that Mitterrand's administration has spared no effort at the Security Council to seek international recognition for the Ndjamena puppet regime, thus overtly confirming its support of the outlawed gang. The delivery of military equipment, the reorganization of the so-called FAN under French guidance, as well as diplomatic support, all show that Francois Mitterrand's Socialist France continues to support the dictatorial forces of the FAN. Now more than ever, the mask has fallen off. [Passage indistinct]

CONGO

Minister of Information Relieved of Post

AB301731 Paris AFP in French 1712 GMT 30 Apr 83

[Excerpt] Brazzaville, 30 Apr (AFP) — Mr Florent Ntsiba, Congolese minister of information, posts and telecommunications, and a member of the Political Bureau charged with the press, propaganda and information, has been dismissed from the Central Committee of the Congolese Labor Party (PCT — only party) and stripped of his functions for "ideological inconsequence," a statement issued in Brazzaville on Saturday said.

SDAR Leader Arrives in Brazzaville 29 April

AB301003 Paris AFP in English 0804 GMT 30 Apr 83

[Text] Brazzaville, April 30 (AFP) — Mohamed Abdelaziz, president of the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic, whose guerrillas are fighting Morocco for control of Western Sahara, arrived here Friday and said Morocco had failed to crush the Saharan forces.

The military situation showed that the Moroccans were incompetent, despite U.S. military support for them, he said. Yet they were still determined to continue fighting and not negotiate with the guerrilla Polisario Front.

Mr Abdelaziz, who was greeted by Congolese President Denis Sassou-Nguesso, flew in from Bujumbura after a two-day visit to Burundi.

He told a press conference there before leaving that it was not his movement which had divided the Organization of African Unity (OAU), but the Moroccans and their supporters who had refused to accept the Saharan republic to the OAU. He said the Saharan republic would attend the June summit of the OAU in Addis Ababa with the aim of strengthening the independence and liberation of Africa.

Ends Visit 30 April

AB301453 Paris AFP in French 1348 GMT 30 Apr 83

[Text] Brazzaville, 30 Apr (AFP) — The visit of SDAR President Mohamed Abdelaziz to the Congo ended on Saturday morning, Congolese radio announced in Brazzaville.

The SDAR president, who held talks with Congolese head of state Colonel Denis Sassou-Nguesso before leaving the Congolese capital, visited the port of Brazzaville and the shipbuilding yard (Chacona) of the Trans-Congolese Communications Agency during his stay.

ZAIRE

Support Message Sent to Frelimo Congress

AB291208 Kinshasa AZAP in French 1027 GMT 29 Apr 83

[Text] Kinshasa, 28 Apr (AZAP) — Gambembo Fumu wa Utadi, Central Committee member in charge of relations with fraternal and friendly parties, sent a message of support and encouragement on Thursday to the Frelimo, which is holding its fourth national congress in Maputo.

In the message, Mr Gambembo salutes the success achieved by Mozambique since its independence in the consolidation of state power and in the building of the economy. He invites all Mozambicans to put aside their personal interests and, in the name of Field Marshal Mobutu Sese Seko and the militants of the MPR, wishes them success in their revolutionary undertakings.

Zaire is represented at this congress by Tokaul Tokwaulu Batale, our ambassador to Mozambique.

BENIN

Reportage on Al-Qahdhafi Dinner Speech

U.S. Planes Reportedly Intercepted

LD301100 Tripoli JANA in English 0903 GMT 30 Apr 83

[Text] Cotonou, April 30, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The leader of the great Al-Fatih revolution, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi said the Libyan Arab people are courageously confronting repeated and insolent U.S. colonialist attempts over the Gulf of Sidra.

In a speech delivered last night at the dinner party given by Benin's president to honour him, the leader said when he was visiting Nigeria, the Libyan Arab Armed Forces intercepted more than 100 U.S. aircraft near the Gulf of Sidra. He said "we are not afraid of America despite the fact that the giant U.S. American force cannot be compared with the force of a small people such as Libya's...[JANA ellipses] notwithstanding their numbers or strength, the Libyan Arab people have the right to live in freedom, free from threats. Imperialism should not disregard small peoples because a giant machine might be clogged by a small stone."

In this respect, Col al-Qadhdhafi affirmed the necessity of strengthening the anti-imperialist front. He said "victory is not impossible for our peoples. The small Vietnamese people had earlier gained victory and so will our peoples and the peoples of Latin America."

Delivers Warning on Chad

LD301050 Tripoli JANA in English 0947 GMT 30 Apr 83

[Text] Cotonou, Rajab 18, April 30, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi warned that any outside interference in Chad gives Libya the right to interfere, too. The warning was spelt out in a speech delivered at a dinner given in his honour by Benin's president.

Will Support Chadian Democracy

LD301106 Tripoli JANA in English 0957 GMT 30 Apr 83

[Text] Cotonou, Rajab 18, April 30, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — Colonel al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the great Al-Fatih Revolution, at a dinner party last night in his honour given by the President Ahmad Kerekou in Cotonou, talked about the current situation in Chad.

Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi expressed his deep sorrow for his country's inability to help the brotherly people of Chad due to the deterioration of the situation and resumption of civil war. He said "we all agree that no one group can rule Chad" and once again confirmed that without the participation of the various sections representing the people of Chad, the government situation in the country will not be settled.

He affirmed that Libya does not contemplate military intervention in Chad but it will support legitimacy there. This means democratic legitimacy and not one based on force.

Al-Qadhdhafi Delivers Speech at Festival

LD291531 Tripoli JANA In English 1400 GMT 29 Apr 83

[Text] Tripoli, Rajab 17, Apr 29, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The revolution's leader and President Ahmad Kerekou of Benin last night attended a large popular festival in the Beninese capital of Cotonou held on the occasion of the leader's visit to the People's Republic of Benin.

The leader delivered a speech at the festival which was attended by over 50 thousand young people and members from the Beninese revolutionary defence councils. The leader conveyed the greetings of the people's committees and congresses, the militants in the green military guard and of the revolutionary committees to President Ahmad Kerekou and the Beninese people.

He said: "I wish to convey to you our appreciation of the hospitality and friendly reception with which we were met by the people of Benin. This reception expresses the strong relations which exist between the Libyan Arab and militant Beninese people. It further reflects the solidarity of our struggle against imperialism and the revolutionary bond between our two peoples."

He said: "I acclaim the steadfastness and heroism of the people of Benin and of President Ahmad Kerekou. The people of Benin, who despite their small number like the Libyan people, frighten imperialism and local reaction.

Brother Kerekou, who is not as powerful as imperialism and local reaction, still frightens imperialism and local reaction.

The people of Benin despite their small number is a threat to imperialism because they are free and achieved their freedom through the revolution of October 26, 1972 which was led by the hero, Ahmad Kerekou.

He managed to create a popular revolution through the army unlike other African coups. Most of such coups were fascist and anti-mass and serve the interests of colonialism and reaction and the local forces of exploitation. The October Revolution, led by hero, Ahmad Kerekou, made the army to take the masses' side and for the sake of building socialism in Benin and the defeat of imperialism and the reactionary forces and feudalism."

Colonel al-Qadhdhafi said: "The October 26 Revolution then opened the way for the popular masses to attain authority. Revolutionary councils have been set up at local levels, such as cities and districts, as well as defence committees to defend the revolution. These are the revolutionary committees. The Beninese people started to enjoy freedom and democracy, and started to participate in the assumption of authority and develop socialism."

However, Col al-Qadhdhafi pointed out, imperialism is antagonistic to such steps and it soon launched a mercenary attack

against Benin in January 1977, but it was aborted by the daring leadership of Ahmad Kerekou, the Beninese people and the revolution's defence committees which demonstrated their efficiency in repulsing this vicious campaign.

The leader added: "This hostile action against the free Beninese people angered the Libyan people and urged them to join the battle. They set up an airbridge to supply the Beninese people with arms for their just struggle." The leader reiterated the Libyan people's readiness to continue to fight alongside their brothers, the Beninese people.

He went on to say "You should rely on your alliance with the Libyan people and have great trust in them because they are a free people and control authority, wealth and arms in their country. The people of Benin, like the Libyan people, are facing the imperialist challenges. The USA, as a superpower, challenges the Libyan people, but, they stood up to such challenges and decided to fight to the end. The U.S. fleet, until yesterday, was challenging us in the Gulf of Sidra but we decided to defend the Gulf as an integral part of the Libyan soil. The Libyan people are ready to defend the Gulf until death. We have warned the world that the Gulf of Sidra will turn into a bloodbath. The world will have to witness that... we do not fear America. Our presence, here in Benin, is a pledge of our alliance against imperialism, racism and local reaction and for the causes of freedom and socialism and for the final victory of the oppressed against the oppressors. Our presence, again, is a boost to the African people's morale. We say to them, as two free peoples, we can stand in the side of the African peoples' struggle in South Africa, Namibia, Angola and Mozambique against apartheid. We announce our unconditional support for the front line African states, bordering the racist regime of South Africa. We further pledge our support for the Palestinian people who have been fighting Zionism, and racism, and for the return to their homeland which has been usurped since 1948. Imperialist forces stand firmly in favour of Zionism and racism against the Arab peoples. The Pretorian regime is being fully backed by imperialism."

The leader stressed the importance of the African people uniting in one front against racism, and U.S. imperialism in South Africa and Palestine. He also mentioned the need to strengthen the alliance among the revolutionary African people headed by the Libyan Arab and Beninese people.

The leader said: "We shall continue to instigate for a popular revolution so that reaction is defeated in Africa and popular revolution succeeds. We should carry on the struggle by day and night to liberate the African Continent from racism and imperialism. Both the Ghanaian and Upper Volta people have joined the anti-imperialist camp in Africa.

The army in these countries has sided with the people, following the examples of the Ethiopian and Libyan armies before them. These armies are models because they have overcome the fascist spirit, sided with the people, opened the way for them to reach power and possess control of wealth and arms."

The armed people, the leader reiterated, cannot be ever defeated. He mentioned that both men and women in Libya receive training in the use of various weapons.

Col al-Qadhdhafi said "With the armed people we shall confront imperialism, Zionism and reaction.

The alliance between the Libyan Arab and Beninese people is a strong bond between two free people. The Beninese people would now be in the process of completing people's authority if the revolutionary councils are developed into people's congresses."

The leader stressed the need to extend the anti-imperialist front to include revolutionary Latin America whose people are fighting to fend off imperialism, as in Nicaragua. He said: "We stand by the Nicaraguan people, who are confronting the base U.S. aggression, and the people of Cuba, Grenada and Suriname. We support all the revolutionary movements in Latin America and we shall consolidate this solidarity by action not by words."

The leader pointed to how the Libyan people have seized this opportunity saying "The entire world is talking about the crisis of the Libyan aircraft heading for Nicaragua and stopped by imperialism, through its agents in Brazil, from delivering Libyan aid to the Nicaraguan people."

Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the revolution, has said that the U.S. Administration had used every available means to stop the Libyan assistance reaching Nicaragua. He added "We are determined to continue supporting the Nicaraguan people and nobody could stop two people, the Libyan and Nicaraguan, from uniting their forces against their common enemy. The same thing goes for Benin. No one can stop the alliance between the people of Libya and Benin for the building of African unity and for liberating the African Continent from racism and reaction.

We again would like to challenge the American agents in Africa who are transforming the continent into imperialist spheres of influence and building strong relations with the racist regimes in South Africa and occupied Palestine. Our meeting today is contrary to the U.S. wishes which stand against any fruitful alliance that brings about progress, freedom and prosperity to the African peoples.

Urges Africans To Revolt

AB291145 Paris AFP in English 1118 GMT 29 Apr 83

[Text] Cotonou, April 29 (AFP) — Libya has pledged to strengthen its links with "revolutionary" African regimes, particularly Benin, Ghana and Upper Volta, and called on other African states to revolt.

Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, who arrived here yesterday from Lagos on a West African tour, told a Benin rally last night that "we should permanently encourage African peoples to revolution, and incite the revolutionary forces in African armies to rejoin the African popular masses."

He told the crowd: "There are larger African states than yours which do not scare imperialism. They are like sheep which nobody fears, while Benin frightens imperialism."

Concerning Brazil's April 16 grounding of four Libyan planes on their way to Nicaragua with an arms shipment, Colonel al-

Qadhdhafi said the planes "had crossed the Atlantic Ocean to help the Nicaraguan revolution."

Noting that "some" Libyan planes had been intercepted, the Libyan leader said that Nicaragua "is free, like Libya, and nobody can stop two peoples from uniting."

He also assured the Namibian, Palestinian and South African people of Libya's total support.

During his long, improvised speech, Col al-Qadhdhafi assured Benin that Libya would provide aid for the officially Marxist state's economic, military and material development plan.

Benin President Mathieu Kerekou noted that Libya had become the systematic target of "intimidatory manoeuvres by international reaction," and expressed his "unshakable" support for Col al-Qadhdhafi's regime.

He said the Libyan leader's visit would give a new impetus to the existing friendship and cooperation between the two states.

Col al-Qadhdhafi was today expected to visit Benin University, before talks with Lieutenant Colonel Kerekou and Benin officials.

Visits Porto Novo, Speaks

AB301254 Paris AFP in French 1140 GMT 30 Apr 83

[Text] Cotonou, 30 Apr (AFP) — On Friday afternoon, Libyan Head of State Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi visited Porto Novo (30 kms east of Cotonou), whose population is mostly Muslim. He was given an enthusiastic welcome to the old Beninese capital.

In an address to the people, most of whom were wealthy businessmen, the Libyan head of state called for the inhabitants of Porto Novo to invest more in their country. According to Koranic law, he said, to amass wealth is a serious sin.

Colonel al-Qadhdhafi also announced that his country was committed to the rehabilitation of the Porto Novo hospital.

On Saturday, Col al-Qadhdhafi will have a face-to-face meeting with Beninese President Brigadier General Kerekou and will meet Beninese cadres. He will leave Cotonou in the afternoon at the end of his 3-day official visit to Benin.

Libyan-Beninese Joint Communique

LD011753 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 1 May 83

["Text" of joint Libyan-Beninese communique on Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi visit to the People's Republic of Benin, issued on 30 April in Tripoli and Cotonou]

[Text] At the invitation of his brother and friend, His Excellency Ahmad Kerekou, chairman of the Beninese People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee and president of the National Executive Council, Brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the great September, paid an official visit to the People's Republic of Benin between 28 and 30 April, 1983.

The brother leader, Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, and the accompanying delegation were received by President Ahmad Kerekou, who was accompanied by an important delegation representing the central authorities of the revolutionary party and government of Benin.

During his visit to the People's Republic of Benin, Brother Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi took part in a number of activities held in honor of the Libyan Arab delegation, particularly the popular rally and cultural evening. He also visited the National University of Benin and the hospital and museum of history at Porto Novo. He also met with the Muslims in this town.

In a cordial atmosphere abounding with a spirit of struggle and revolution, President Kerekou spoke of the Beninese revolutionary experience, affirming the efforts being exerted to bolster his country's independence and sovereignty and insure progress and prosperity for the people of Benin.

Brother Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, the commander of the great 1 September revolution, expressed his admiration for the achievements of the people of Benin in the economic, political, industrial and cultural fields, which mark an important stage in gaining freedom from foreign domination. He also explained the political, economic, social and cultural achievements of the great 1 September Revolution, concentrating in particular on the efforts being made to strengthen the sovereignty and independence of the Libyan Arab people in their endeavors to establish a free social society governed by justice and prosperity within the framework of popular democracy and of the third universal theory.

Col al-Qadhdhafi had several meetings with President Admad Kerekou which were characterized by a spirit of fraternity, solidarity and cordial understanding. The two leaders were thus able to review all spheres of bilateral cooperation and international political issues.

Concerning bilateral cooperation, the two leaders expressed their satisfaction with the positive and coordinated development of this cooperation, and voiced their willingness to redouble their efforts to make this cooperation fruitful for the good of the Arab Libyan and Beninese peoples.

In the African domain, the two leaders stressed their attachment to the principles and objectives of the OAU and agreed on the need to strengthen and consolidate the organization. In this respect, they urged the member states to participate in the forthcoming summit of the organization without any preconditions in order to foil the maneuvers of the imperialist states which seek the destruction of the organization.

In reviewing the issue of Western Sahara, the two leaders expressed their support for the just struggle being waged by the Saharan people for their right to set up an independent and sovereign state. They appealed both to Morocco and to the SDAR to hold a frank and direct dialogue in accordance with the OAU resolutions and those of the Nonaligned Movement and the

United Nations in order to create the opportunity for a peaceful settlement of this issue.

Concerning the situation in Chad, the two leaders expressed their regret at the long years of suffering that have been the resultof the civil war [words indistinct]. In this respect, they urge all political and military parties to resolve their problems on the basis of the Lagos agreement and the OAU summit resolutions adopted in Freetown and Nairobi, to achieve national reconciliation in Chad and reconstruct this country.

Reviewing the situation in southern Africa, the two leaders denounced the repeated aggressions perpetrated by the racist regime in South Africa against the "confrontation-line" states in order to destabilize them. They also condemned the policy of repression against the African citizens of South Africa and Namibia, based on apartheid. Concerning the Namibian question, the two sides reaffirmed their solidarity with, and support for, the Namibian people led by SWAPO, their sole representative in the struggle against the fascist, racist regime in South Africa. They also denounced imperialist maneuvers aimed at obstructing the negotiations on the independence of Namibia through the imposition of a settlement that goes against the interests and will of the Namibian people.

The two leaders also expressed their absolute support for the liberation movements that wage a continuous struggle against the South African regime, and strongly denounced the alliance between the Zionist regime in occupied Palestine and the regime of the white minority in South Africa, as well as all aspects of the political, economic and military cooperation between these two regimes. They denounced international imperialism as a threat to the security of the Arab and African peoples.

The two sides also condemned the policy of establishing bases abroad and massing fleets off African shores in order to threaten and intimidate the African peoples.

Regarding international issues, the two leaders stressed the importance of the principles and objectives of the Nonaligned Movement and expressed their deep faith in the positive role played by the group in international relations. They also emphasized their commitment to the principles contained in the United Nations Charter and voiced their concern over the misuse of the right of veto by certain UN Security Council members.

Concerning the situation in the Middle East, the two leaders stressed their support for the struggle of the Palestinian Arab people against Zionism and imperialism. In this respect, they appealed to the international community to work toward allowing the Palestinian Arab people to achieve self-determination and establish its own independent and sovereign state on its own land in accordance with the just UN solutions. The two leaders condemned the savage massacres of the Lebanese and Palestinian civilian population and particularly the massacres at Sabra and Shatila. They also condemned the continuing occupation of Arab lands by the Zionist regime, and called for a complete withdrawal from these lands.

Concerning Latin America and the Caribbean, the two leaders condemned the moves by international imperialism which seek to destabilize the progressive states of the area.

Touching upon the international economic situation, the leader of the great 1 September Revolution and the president of the People's Republic of Benin affirmed the need to establish a new and more equitable international economic order. The leaders also reaffirmed their joint determination to rapidly promote a South-South dialogue. In this respect, they stressed their absolute attachment to the Lagos program of action and the economic communique it produced, as well as to the economic decisions made at the Seventh Nonaligned Summit Conference in New Delhi.

At the conclusion of the talks, President Ahmad Kerekou expressed the support of the Beninese people for the people of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah regarding the aggressions and provocations it has long been subjected to from international imperialism, and stressed the right of the Libyan Arab people to defend its economic and political rights. On his part, the brother Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the great 1 September Revolution, expressed his thanks and gratitude to president Ahmad Kerekou and, through him, to all the central authorities of the party and government and to all the people of Benin for the special, warm and fraternal welcome accorded to him and to the delegation accompanying him.

The brother Col al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the great 1 September Revolution, extended an invitation to His Excellency President Ahmad Kerekou, president of the People's Republic of Benin, to visit the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah. The invitation was gratefully accepted and the date of the visit will be fixed later.

Issued in Cotonou, on 30 April 1983.

GUINEA

Toure Receives Guinea-Bissau Prime Minister

AB280956 Paris AFP in French 0718 GMT 28 Apr 83

[Text] Dakar, 28 Apr (AFP) — According to Radio Conakry monitored in Dakar, Guinea-Bissau Prime Minister Victor Saude Maria was received in audience on Wednesday evening by Ahmed Sekou Toure, president of Guinea. The audience was said to have taken place in a "relaxed atmosphere, full of understanding."

Before this audience, the Guinea-Bissau prime minister held a 90-minute discussion with his Guinean counterpart, Lansana Beavogui. This meeting, which was extended to include the delegations of the two countries, centered on bilateral cooperation. In this regard, two working commissions were set up to study all aspects of this cooperation and to make proposals that will lead to its diversification and development.

Saude Maria, who arrived in Conakry on Tuesday evening for a 4-day visit, has already visited two regions in southeastern Guinea in the company of Mr Beavogui.

IVORY COAST

President Orders Schools To Reopen 3 May

AB292002 Abidjan Domestic Service in French 1930 GMT 29 Apr 83

[Text] Concerning the strike action by secondary school teachers, the president of the republic announces: "Secondary schools, as well as technical and professional training institutions, will be reopened on 3 May 1983. The president of the republic assures the personnel of these institutions who return to their posts to resume work on 3 May that they can return to the houses they were previously occupying, whether they are government houses or rented houses.

If the conditions of occupancy of the houses in question were not settled with landlords before the strike, prefects and subprefects will help find a suitable solution to the leasing contract.

New Education Minister Appointed

AB291950 Abidjan Domestic Service in French 1930 GMT 29 Apr 83

[Text] The president has made a slight change in the government. Thus, Mr Balla Keita is appointed minister of national education and scientific research. It should be noted that national education comprises higher, secondary and primary education. He replaces Paul Akoto-Yao and Pascal Nguessan Dikibie. The next meeting of the Council of Ministers is tomorrow at 1000.

LIBERIA

Accounts of Ten Public Corporations Frozen

AB281937 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English 1900 GMT 28 Apr 83

[Text] Banking institutions throughout the country have been ordered to freeze the accounts, including (?some) deposits of 10 public and semipublic corporations by (?our) government. The banks were also authorized to deduct whatever debts the corporations (?owed to them) and pay through the Finance Ministry. The corporations are: the JFK Medical Center, the Montserrado Group of Companies, Monserrado Fishing Company, Monserrado (?Tramps) and the National Port Authority. Others include Nimba County Agricultural Development Project, NCAP; (Parker) Industry; the Monrovia Chartered Authority, NCA; the Liberia Timber and Plywood Corporation; and Air Liberia.

An Executive Mansion release issued in Monrovia today quoted Head of State Doe as saying that the measure was in line with government efforts to ensure the viability of the economy. Head of State Doe said that the significant part of our effort is the effective collection of taxes due government, and frowned on those public corporations which failed to cooperate with this effort.

MALI

Soviet Trade Union Delegation Arrives

AB301408 Bamako Domestic Service in French 1300 GMT 30 Apr 83

[Text] A delegation from the Central Council of Soviet Trade Unions, headed by Comrade Kadzhrov Kadzhov, member of the Central Committee of the Soviet Trade Unions and the regional chairman of the trade union of the Turkmen Soviet Socialist Republic. The delegation has come to bear testimony to the effective and fraternal solidarity of Soviet trade unions and workers with the Malian trade union, assembly and workers on the occasion of the 1 May celebrations.

NIGERIA

Chadian Delegation Expected in Lagos

AB301545 Paris AFP in French 1443 GMT 30 Apr 83

[Text] Lagos, 30 Apr (AFP) — A high-level Chadian delegation is expected to arrive at any moment in the Nigerian capital following recent clashes between Nigerian and Chadian troops on the islands of Lake Chad, it was learned from well-informed sources in Lagos on Saturday.

These clashes, which have now subsided, are reported to have lasted more than 1 week. The number of casualties, however, is not yet known, the sources pointed out.

The Nigerian daily newspaper, THE NATIONAL CONCORD, said on Friday that it believes eight Nigerian soldiers were killed during the clashes, while Chadian sources had previously told AFP in Lagos that four Chadians were killed. THE NATIONAL CONCORD also stated that the Nigerian Air Force has been placed on alert, a story which Nigerian military sources denied to AFP.

Well-informed sources in Lagos said the origin of the Chadian-Nigerian dispute could be traced to the great insecurity prevailing on the islands of Lake Chad, which were used by certain Chadian factions during the civil war and where Nigerian troops had to intervene to restablish order.

On Saturday morning, Boubacar Abderrahmane, one of the historic leaders of the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Chad (MPLT) and now on a brief visit to Lagos, stated that his men have "reconquered two islands of Lake Chad" which, until now, were under the control of President Hissein Habre's forces.

He also reaffirmed his support of the Transitional National Union Government (GUNT) of former President Goukouni Oueddei. He pointed out that this "reconquest," which was successfully carried out on 27 April, might have resulted in the death of "more than 20 fighters of Hissein Habre's FAN."

According to Mr Abderrahmane, whose area of influence has always been around Lake Chad, his troops are now in control of the Islands of Chuku Kinjiria and Chuku Hadje, in Chadian

territory, while the Chadian-Nigerian clashes were reported to have taken place on the islands of Duri and Kinasara.

These recent clashes, which occurred between 18 and 24 April — when the Lake Chad Basin Commission was meeting in Lagos and shortly before the arrival of Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi in the Nigerian capital — were the object of a communique by the Nigerian Defense Ministry. The communique stated the intention "to defend Nigeria's territorial integrity at all costs."

Joint Libyan-Nigerian Statement Issued 28 April
LD291455 Tripoli JANA in English 1000 GMT 29 Apr 83

[Text] Lagos, Rajab 17, Apr 29, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The joint Arab-Nigerian statement was issued in Lagos and Tripoli yesterday at the conclusion of the working visit by the revolution's leader to the Federal Republic of Nigeria. The text is as follows:

Upon the invitation of the president of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Alhaji Shehu Shagari, the leader of the great Al-Fatih revolution, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, paid an official visit to Nigeria Rajab 13-16, 1392 after the prophet's death (April 25-28, 1983).

Concerted talks were held by the two leaders during the visit covering current international issues with special attention given to those concerning Africa, the Arab homeland, OAU, OPEC and the UN. They also reviewed bilateral relations and the revolution's leader described the coordination and steady development of revolutionary action in the Jamahiriyah and the methods for achieving a society free from all forms of exploitation or domination, whether by individuals or groups.

On his part President Shagari of Nigeria briefed the leader on the prevalent political and economic climate in Nigeria stressing that his administration is attempting to instill democracy and economic and social self-sufficiency.

The two leaders reaffirm their commitment to end imperialism, neo-colonialism and racism and their adherence to the principles of peace in the world and supporting the heroic struggle of the oppressed people to free themselves from the clutches of imperialism.

The leaders discussed in detail the problems of the OAU and renewed their commitment to promote the organisation. They welcomed the decision to hold the 19th OAU meeting without any prior conditions to provide an opportunity to find solutions for all the problems and to allow all the African states to bear their responsibility to liquidate the last remnants of imperialism in the continent.

The two sides expressed support for the struggle of the West Saharan people and their right to self-determination in accordance with the OAU and UN resolutions.

The struggle for the independence of Namibia was observed to have reached a critical stage with a new set of implications which call for further sacrifices to be made to achieve the desired goal.

On this issue, the two sides reject any link made between Namibia's independence and other factors outside the framework of the UN Security Council Resolution 435 for 1978. They strongly condemn the continued illegal occupation of Namibia by the white racist minority in Africa. The two sides agreed that Namibia should be liberated, authority assumed by its true representative under the leadership of SWAPO and the detestable racist regime in South Africa liquidated. These were considered to be among the primary responsibilities of the international community.

Furthermore, the two sides assert their backing of the South African people's struggle against the racist regime for liberation and the regaining of human dignity.

They also pledge to back continuously liberation movements in South Africa. They call for urgent and positive action to be taken from now on in view of the slimmer chances for peaceful solutions to those problems.

They strongly condemned the racist regime's aggression against the neighbouring independent African states which is aimed at destabilizing these states. In this respect, the two sides strongly condemn the economic and military cooperation between the racist regime of South Africa and the Zionist entity which is considered a threat to world peace and security.

President Shagari of Nigeria and Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi pledged their full support for the Palestinian people's struggle to self-determination, under the leadership of the PLO, and to establish their independent state.

In this respect, they strongly condemned the Zionist occupation of Arab lands, the building of settlements on the West Bank and Gaza Strip and the massacres committed against the innocent Palestinian refugees. They called for the complete Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories including Lebanon and considered the continued Israeli occupation a danger to the peace and security of the whole area and violation of international law.

On Chad, Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and President Shagari have expressed their readiness to shoulder the responsibility towards helping peace and stability to prevail over Chad, a country that has been torn apart by the 17-year old civil war.

They called for reconciliation among the Chadian people as a cornerstone towards reaching a permanent peace. They also pledged their readiness to support the Chadian people and help them rebuild their country and to appeal for further generous assistance from the world community for the same purpose.

They stressed the importance of non-interference from any foreign force in Chad's internal affairs.

On the question of the next African summit, they called on all African countries to take part in the summit without any preconditions of any kind. On the current international economic situation, they, together, reviewed the matters which hinder the

rapid economic development of Africa and the Third World countries in general. They stressed the importance of persuading the countries involved in North-South dialogue of the necessity for finding a balanced new economic order. In this respect, they stressed the importance of starting the South-South dialogue. They discussed the importance of oil as an energy source and agreed to coordinate their stand on oil prices from within the OPEC organizations to which they are both commited.

The two sides are optimistic to find other fields for the continued cooperations between their two countries.

The two sides expressed confidence in the UN and their determination to make it more democratic and just to its members irrespective of their power or size. They also reaffirmed their trust in the Non-aligned Movement and in the principle of not resorting to force to resolve international conflicts.

They strongly objected to the presence of foreign military bases and condemned economic or military pressure as meant to terrorise the weak Third World countries. On this point, Col al-Qadhdhafi noted the political, economic and other threats made against the Jamahiriyah. President Shehu Shagari, hereupon, expressed his country's support for the legitimate right of the Jamahiriyah people to preserve their freedom.

At the conclusion of the visit Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi expressed his deep gratitude and that of the Jamahiriyah people to President Shehu Shagari, the government and people of Nigeria for the generous hospitality with which he and his accompanying delegation were met during their visit to Nigeria.

Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi extended an invitation to President Shagari to visit the Jamahiriyah which was happily accepted with the understanding that the details will be finalized according to normal procedures.

Issued in Lagos, the Federal Republic of Nigeria, on 16 Rajab, 1392 after the prophet's death (April 28, 1983) in Arabic and English, both being equally applicable.

Minister of Science, Technology Resigns

AB300942 Lagos NAN in English 0930 GMT 30 Apr 83

[Text] Lagos, Apr 29 (NAN) — The minister of science and technology, Dr Wahab Dosunmu, said today that his resignation as a minister took effect from today, April 29 and not May 14. Dr Dosunmu made this known in a statement issued in Lagos to correct media reports that his resignation would take effect from May 14.

The minister resigned his appointment to contest the Lagos senatorial seat on the plaform of the NPN [National Party of Nigeria]

SENEGAL

Assembly Abolishes Prime Minister's Post

AB291432 Paris AFP in French 1300 GMT 29 Apr 83

[Text] Dakar, 29 Apr (AFP) — The Senegalese National Assembly today passed a law abolishing the post of prime minister — currently held by Moustapha Niasse, who is also minister of foreign affairs — as well as a law making National Assembly Speaker Habib Thiam, the former prime minister, the president's representative in case he is suddenly out of office.

These constitutional changes were announced on 3 April by Senegalese President Abdou Diouf a few hours after officially assuming his duties following the 27 February presidential elections.

In a message to the nation, the Senegalese head of state explained that the abolition of the post of prime minister — created in 1970 — was aimed at making the government more efficient in its activities and to enable the head of state to lead, maintain and control the administration directly.

NAMIBIA

Reportage on Paris Conference on Namibia Question

Angola's Jorge Speech

AB280737 Luanda Domestic Service in French 1100 GMT 28 Apr 83

[Text] The People's Republic of Angola is making a strong appeal to the international community to take efficient measures towards the final solution of the Namibian question. In his speech delivered to the international conference of support for the Namibia's people's independence struggle at UNESCO headquarters in Paris, the Angolan minister of foreign affairs denounced the threats, acts of aggression, and the armed (?incursions) to which Angola has constantly been victim since its independence in 1975 from the racist and terrorist Pretoria regime.

He said Angola is expecting from the international community decisive support and measures commensurate to its current exigencies in order to find a solution to the Namibian question.

In spite of the numerous pertinent resolutions of the United Nations, the OAU, and the Nonaligned Movement, said Paulo Jorge, the Pretoria regime continues to perpetuate its control over Namibia and to engage in acts of aggression against the countries of the region. To this effect, the minister recalled the UN Security Council resolutions calling for an immediate halt to South Africa's provocative armed invasions against the People's Republic of Angola and the total and adequate compensation for human and material losses resulting from these acts of aggression. He also recalled that the Security Council requested all UN member states to urgently grant all necessary assistance to the People's Republic of Angola and to the other frontline countries. During its next meeting, the Security Council will decide on efficient measures in accordance with the UN Charter the racist acts of aggression continue.

And despite these resolutions, Paulo Jorge said, new acts of violation of the sovereignty and the territorial intergrity of the People's Republic of Angola continue to be executed by South Africa, for example the occupation of a substantial part of southern Cunene Province by South African troops since August 1981.

The minister deplored the passive attitude of the international community, especially the member countries of the Security Council, in the face of the deliberate genocide and armed aggression which is causing considerable human and material losses reaching gigantic and dramatic proportions. It is therefore necessary for the international organizations concerned to assume their responsibilities, Paulo Jorge explained. Up until last year the undeclared war being waged against us by the South African racists resulted in thousands of dead and mutilated, and hundreds of thousands of people displaced as well as millions of dollars in material damages.

The minister added, it is unfair that the Angolan people paid that extremely high price almost alone, stating that the process of the Namibian independence does not fall within Angola's competence. The issue concerns all UN member countries because Namibia is a trust territory depending directly on the international organization, which implies that each state must assume its responsibility.

Paulo Jorge expressed the view that the Contact Group did not hold a monopoly on the settlement of the Namibian problem through negotiations. The efforts being made by that group cannot prevent other moves aimed at pressuring the United States and South Africa or at granting concrete support to SWAPO and the ANC as well as to the frontline countries. All member countries without exception must agree to make available to the UN secretary general all means, including military contingents, necessary to terminate the illegal occupation of Namibia by the Racist Pretoria regime.

Referring to French External Relations Minister Claude Cheysson's statement at the opening session of the conference that the Contact Group has completed its work, the Angolan minister stated that after the five countries have determined the electoral system for Namibia, fixed a date for the cease-fire, determined the composition of the UN troops, and persuaded the U.S. Administration to desist its obsessive attempt to link the settlement of the Namibian problem with the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola, it will then be opportune, if not indispensable, for the Namibian dossier to be handed over to the UN secretary general so that he will pass it over to the Security Council for implementation.

Quoting Dos Santos' statement that sooner or later the United States will have to choose between the racist regime and the African people and that the racist troops have made life difficult in vast areas of Angolan territory, Paulo Jorge stated that Angola will firmly support SWAPO and the ANC and that it will continue to make sacrifices for their liberation and their national independence. To achieve this, he said, it is necessary for each government and organization to respond favorably to the appeal made by the Angolan Government to the international community for emergency food aid. The Angolan delegation at the UN-sponsored international conference of the support for the Namibian people's struggle for independence comprises notably apart from the minister of external relations, the Angola ambassadors to the United Nations and to Paris, Elisio Avila de Jesu Figueiredo and Louis Jose de Almeida, respectively.

SWAPO's Nujoma Speech

AB261703 Luanda ANGOP in French 1830 GMT 26 Apr 83

[Text] Luanda, 26 Apr (ANGOP) — In Paris on Monday, SWAPO Chairman Sam Nujoma denounced the European Community's decision aimed at ensuring direct financial and material assistance, under false pretexts, to the Angolan bandits and mercenaries (?in) occupied [words indistinct].

Speaking during the examination of the current situation inside and outside Namibia, within the framework of the deliberations of the UN international conference on support for the Namibian people's independence struggle, which opened yesterday at UNESCO headquarters in Paris, Sam Nujoma considered the

decision of the European Community to be an "act of hostility against the African people." By adopting this hostile and reactionary resolution, he added, the European Community has "publicly taken a position in favor of a greater reinforcement of the tentacles of the Pretoria regime and its subversive and destabilizing campaign against the People's Republic of Angola."

On this same occasion, the SWAPO chairman noted that the Paris conference was being held just after the second extended session of the SWAPO Central Committee, which took place in Angola with the participation of 138 delegates and centered on the analysis of all aspects of the national liberation struggle in Namibia. (The first session was held in 1976 in Zambia.)

The second session of the SWAPO Central Committee, he said, resulted in the adoption of new guidelines by this organization, the amendment of its statutes, as well as a program of action for the coming 5 years and the reelection of its chairman.

Speaking on the role of the "Contact Group," the SWAPO chairman said he has been authorized by the Central Committee of his organization [words indistinct] after reviewing the history of the negotiations and the role of the so-called Contact Group, our movement concluded that this group has lost its own contacts with the spirit and letter of Resolution 435, whereas its activity has been transformed into protecting the racist occupiers. [passage indistinct]

According to Nujoma, the Central Committee also strongly rejected the unjust, arrogant, and irrational policy of "linkage." SWAPO's position, he said, is that the oppressed people of Namibia should enjoy the right to independence without any delay or precondition.

In the military sphere, the SWAPO leader explained that the Namibia People's Liberation Army, PLAN, SWAPO's armed wing, presently occupies more Namibian territory than ever before, from the Zambeze River in the northeast down to the Atlantic, and from the northern border down to the district of Windhoek.

"Not a day goes by without there being clashes between our liberation forces and the occupation troops," Sam Nujoma stated. [passage indistinct] " The last few months were marked by brilliant victories scored by the PLAN fighters and great numbers of losses inflicted on the enemy forces."

In conclusion, Sam Nujoma said, "Pretoria now has to waste over 3 million rounds daily in its obstinate effort to perpetuate the occupation of our country."

Throughout his commentary, Sam Nujoma denounced the increasing represssion in Namibia, implemented through torture, detention in concentration camps, abduction, and massacres of innocent citizens. He pointed out that during the last few months, in its general campaign against the African frontline states, the Pretoria regime has been recruiting, training, and financing puppet groups with a view to launching destabilization activities against Angola, Mozambique, Lesotho, Zimbabwe, Zambia, and Botswana, as well as other African states such as the Seychelles.

Nujoma at Press Conference

MB281422 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1327 GMT 28 Apr 83

[Text] Paris, April 28, SAPA — SWAPO Democrat leader Mr Andrews Shipanga, who was expelled from a U.N-sponsored conference here on Tuesday was described today by SWAPO President Mr Sam Nujoma as "a South African agent."

Asked at a press conference what SWAPO'S attitude would be towards "puppets" and "agents" if it came to power, he replied: "Some of those elements are Namibian. Certainly after the liberation of the country they have to be there. They have to be disciplined."

Mr Shipanga was thrown out the conference because he had not been invited. He had registered as a delegate.

U.S. Blamed for Impasse

AB291320 Luanda ANGOP in French 1145 GMT 29 Apr 83

[Text] Paris, 29 Apr (ANGOP) — "The continued illegal occupation of Namibia and racist South Africa's aggressive maneuvers against independent countries of southern Africa are the direct result of U.S. African policies." This is the opinion of SWAPO leader Sam Nujoma who was addressing a press conference at UNESCO headquarters in Paris.

Sam Nujoma, who addressed the international conference on Namibia, also added that he has no doubt that "the Western powers are trying at all costs to let the settlement of the Namibian problem fail so as to maintain a colonial regime in that territory."

The SWAPO president also criticized the actions of the "Contact Group" on Namibia. On this subject, Mr Nujoma said "events in the southern part of the continent clearly show that the actions of the Contact Group has up to now yielded no results, just as the group scoffed at the interest of the Namibian people."

The SWAPO leader stated that the international community categorically rejects the political machinations of the Contact Group, especially Washinton's attempt to link the negotiated settlement of the Namibian issue with the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola. "Now, it can be affirmed with every certainty that through this trick, the United States wants to bring the settlement of the Namibian issue to a final breakdown," Sam Nujoma added.

"SWAPO enjoys the support and assistance in many forms from countries of the socialist community," Sam Nujoma stressed. It should be noted that at the international conference of support for the just struggle of the Namibian people for their independence, organized in Paris, the SWAPO president once again expressed his conviction that this conference will contribute to the harmonious settlement of the Namibian issue.

ZIMBABWE

Minister Appeals for Aid in Curbing Dissidents

MB021006 Harare Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 2 May 83

[Text] A government minister has appealed to people in Matopo District to cooperate with the government in the elimination of dissidents. Comrade Nkala, the minister of national supply, was addressing a rally at St. Joseph Mission, about 170 km southwest of Bulawayo.

He said the government has received information to the effect that certain people were being manipulated by dissidents. Comrade Nkala said if it was found necessary, a curfew would be imposed in the area and this would be detrimental to the district.